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PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO BE HELD ON LOCAL PLAN REVIEW OPTIONS

Council plans series of events for residents to have their say on controversial proposals

Report by **Kenny Parker**

CONTROVERSIAL plans that could shape the future of development in West Lancashire for the next 30 years have been approved for public consultation by the borough council's cabinet.

Now the Preferred Options paper as part of the Local Plan Review will be the subject of a six-week consultation exercise commencing on October 12.

As part of that process, the council will be holding a series of events around the borough at which officers will be available by appointment to meet local residents to explain the proposals and answer any questions they may have.

Details of these events will be published on the borough council's website and in the Champion.

However, the Preferred Options proposals have been rejected by both the Conservatives and the Our West Lancashire group who say that the current Local Plan, which runs until 2027, is adequately meeting the needs of the borough.

Speaking at a press conference three days after the cabinet meeting where the consultation was approved - a meeting which saw angry scenes involving members of the public leading to police being called - council chiefs appealed for the proposals to be given a "fair crack of the whip".

Included in the proposals are plans to release 190 hectares of land for employment purposes and also make provision for nearly 16,000 new homes.

The council claim this will only involve turning over 1.7% of land currently earmarked for Green Belt (590 hectares) and that West Lancs would still have one of the largest Green Belt areas by percentage of any borough in the country. Meanwhile making enough land available for development needs for 30-plus years would leave the authority in a better position to refuse any applications for development not in line with the Local Plan, it's claimed.

John Harrison: 'An exciting blueprint for the borough's future'.

Councillor Ian Moran: 'A game changer for Skelmersdale'.

Council chiefs say market competition for land will also have the knock-on effect of keeping house prices lower and provide more affordable housing, while not actually seeing more houses built overall.

Central to the plans are the creation of three garden villages in Skelmersdale, a logistics park alongside the M58, along with a new knowledge park (for hi-tech businesses) and student accommodation village on St Helens Road, Ormskirk.

The authority says that proposals for Skelmersdale would make a significant contribution to the business case for creating a Skelmersdale rail link.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, who lives in Skelmersdale, said that the plans are a "game changer" for the town.

And Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning and chair of the Local Plan cabinet working group, said that if approved the plans would ensure that West Lancs would benefit from the economic development taking place between Liverpool's Superport, the Atlantic Gateway and Salford Quays. If the council did not make any provision, he said, the borough would be left behind.

John Harrison, the authority's director of development and regeneration, added: "The proposed new Local Plan will be an exciting blueprint for West Lancashire's future. It will enable the council to better manage new development in a way that creates more sustainable communities, provides homes for all parts of the community and increased employment opportunities for local people by taking advantage of opportunities emerging from the anticipated economic growth in the region."

However, Conservative group leader, Councillor David Westley, said that his party was fundamentally opposed to the plans.

He said: "If the public consultation fails to make Labour see sense, scrap their crazy new Local Plan and start again then residents have the democratic option of punishing them at the ballot box.

"There will be opportunities to do this before the new Local Plan is formally adopted i.e. at the borough elections in May 2019 and 2020."

And Our West Lancashire is calling for public meetings "that will work with residents, pooling expertise and knowledge, to ensure that those in affected areas are best able to make their voices heard through well-argued representations."

● ***Parties blame each other after police called to uproar at cabinet meeting - Page 3.***

INSIDE THIS WEEK...

Dental duo's African project

Focus ON Homes

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Dental professionals raising funds for African clinic project

Caring colleagues are halfway to £5,000 target

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A DENTIST and dental nurse from an Ormskirk practice are raising money to provide much-needed treatment for poor communities in South Africa.

Claire Uttley and Amy Robinson from Ravat and Ray Dental Care, located within the West Lancashire Health Centre at Ormskirk Hospital, have joined up with charity Dentaid to set up outreach clinics in the rural village of Melkhoutfonthein, where it is otherwise difficult for people to receive treatment.

Dentaid provides access to safe affordable and essential dental health care to those in the poorest areas of the world and runs numerous volunteering projects.

Donations

Claire, 33, who lives in Ormskirk, and 31-year-old Amy, who lives in Skelmersdale, have already raised nearly £2,500 to finance their trip, which will take place next March, through donations and a host of fundraising activities, including cake sales, raffles, selling tooth timers for children and a family fun day.

Their ultimate target is £5,000, which would cover the cost of flights, accommodation, transport, meals on work days and dental supplies.

Claire said: "We have never done anything like this before. Our main reason for doing this is to help communities less fortunate than ourselves.

"We are very skilled in our day-to-day work and we wanted to help utilise these skills internationally."

To donate to Claire and Amy's trip go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/claire-uttley-1.

N.B. Although the fundraising page refers to their initial plans to go to Zaire, the money will be used for the South Africa trip.

Claire and Amy pictured at one of their fundraising events.

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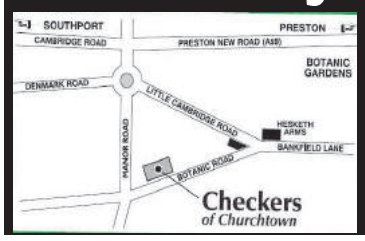

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Police vehicles pictured outside the council offices in Ormskirk.

Parties blame each other after ugly scenes at cabinet meeting

RIVAL political parties in the borough have blamed each other for angry scenes at a cabinet council meeting where the council leader, Councillor Ian Moran was spat at, other councillors abused and the police called.

An estimated 100 members of the public attended the meeting at the council offices in Ormskirk last week where the cabinet approved the consultation of the controversial Preferred Options Local Plan Review.

Both the Labour and Conservatives accused Our West Lancashire's Councillor Adrian Owens of misleading the public into believing that they could speak at the meeting. And Tory leader, Councillor David Westley accused Cllr. Moran of failing to control the meeting.

A spokesperson for the Labour party said: "The cabinet meeting saw unprecedented scenes when around 100 residents turned up to protest, having been misled by the Our West Lancashire political party as to the nature of the meeting and draft proposals for the next Local Plan.

"Cllr. Owens knows full well that the structure of cabinet meetings are not the democratic forum in which residents can best have their say.

"It was unfortunate that the police were called but when council officers going about their daily work fear for their personal safety then something is seriously wrong with the conduct of some members of the public.

"The leader of the council was spat on, councillors were abused and officers were intimidated."

Cllr. Westley also accused Cllr. Owens of misleading the public but added that the leader of the council should have dealt with the situation as it unfolded.

He said: "If Cllr. Moran had been decisive at the outset, been more communicative and managed the situation, the subsequent public frustration could have been avoided as well as the perceived need to call out the police."

Meanwhile Cllr. Owens commented: "We have placed a video of the meeting on our Facebook page and people can form their own opinion.

"This cabinet meeting was the only opportunity for residents to raise their concerns about how the proposed local plan consultation was to be organised before the decision to start the consultation was made."

A spokesperson for Lancashire Police said: "We were called around 7.35pm on September 11 following reports of a public order issue at West Lancashire Borough Council in Derby Street, Ormskirk. Officers attended and no offences were reported."

Housing plan for Linnets' ground faces opposition

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Burscough FC's Victoria Park ground which Torus Homes plans to build on..

BURSCOUGH FC and a housing association have come up against a united opposition following the announcement of plans to build affordable housing on the club's Victoria Park ground.

Social housing group Torus Homes has submitted a planning application to West Lancs Council to build 52 properties on the site, classed as 'affordable homes' either to rent or buy through a shared ownership scheme.

The application to the council states that Burscough FC is currently in need of a modern stadium but that the club can't afford the £400,000 needed to make improvements. The alternative, the application says, is to sell off Victoria Park and use the proceeds from the development to build a new stadium.

Burscough FC announced earlier this year that it had bought neighbouring land to build a new stadium, which received planning permission last year.

However, Burscough Parish Council has expressed doubt that the proposals to build a new stadium will ever come to fruition and rejected the plans at a recent meeting.

Chairman of the parish council, Brian Bailey, said: "One of our concerns was the financial viability of the proposed development. No development in West Lancashire has ever achieved even the minimum 35% of affordable housing requirement under the borough council's planning policy, yet this is promising a 100% delivery.

"Given that the developer is under pressure to provide funding for the new ground, which has to be built first, and will be subject to a Community Infrastructure Levy contribution plus a possible Section 106 contribution, due to lack of green space within the development, we simply do not think it is financially achievable.

"If permission is given we can see amendments being applied for which at least would lead to a reduction in both design for the new ground and in build costs.

"The bottom line, away from the planning issues, is that Burscough FC could end up in the same position that Skelmersdale United currently find themselves in - homeless!

"The parish council would always welcome affordable housing developments but cannot see the point of possibly sacrificing one for the other."

Concerns about the plans were also raised by parish councillor David Hardisty in his capacity as chairman of the Burscough Independent Supporters'Association.

He said the association do not believe the owner "will build a stadium as good as or better than the one he is trying to demolish".

And he added: "Local Burscough councillors should be taking a stand to prevent this unnecessary development and protect our environment and overburdened community."

Meanwhile Burscough Flood Group secretary, Gavin Rattray, claimed the proposed development would "add to the serious sewer and surface water flooding problems in Burscough."

In response to the parish council's concerns, Torus Homes says it is confident it can deliver on the housing plans.

A spokesperson said: "As a registered provider with more than 22,000 homes and a track record of delivering complex new build affordable housing across Merseyside, Cheshire and West Lancashire, Torus is confident of delivering a scheme for 100% affordable housing.

"Torus is happy to meet with local resident groups and stakeholders to discuss and alleviate their concerns over the proposed housing development."

Mike Swift, chairman of Burscough FC, said: "Our investment and development plans proceed, professional advisors have now presented sound legacy proposals for Victoria Park.

"We await the considered opinion of elected members meeting in Ormskirk."

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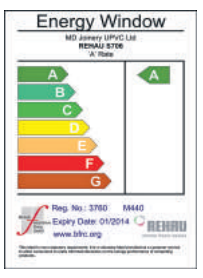

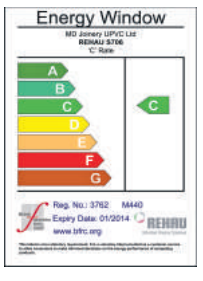

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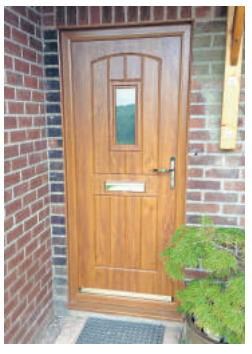

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Man left in agony after hip replacement

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A SIXTY-year-old man was left in agony for five years after a surgeon failed to spot a loosened hip replacement.

In September 2010, James Brolly visited his GP with hip pain and went for an X-ray with the consultant orthopaedic surgeon.

The X-ray revealed a loss of cartilage in the right hip joint and he underwent a total hip replacement at at Renacres Hospital in Halsall in December of that year.

The father of seven from Southport was discharged from the hospital but, just two months later, he started to suffer from extreme pain in his right groin and knee, and was unable to walk. His new hip was X-rayed to check for any loose connection but the consultant's feedback was that it was in a good position with no loosening or failure, while two more X-rays, a bone scan and leukoscan were all said to be normal.

But as the grandfather was continuing to experience a lot of pain, he had an operation to release his right tendon in March 2012. This slightly eased the pain in his groin, but Mr Brolly's knee got worse and an X-ray led to him undergoing a full knee replacement in 2014.

James Brolly with his wife, Linda

Ordeal

However, in the days and months that followed, he continued to experience significant discomfort, and relied on strong pain relief including Tramadol.

In April 2015, after consultants had failed to spot any issues with the hip replacement on 10 separate occasions, Mr Brolly underwent an ultrasound of his right hip, which the consultant again noted did not show any loosening.

The pain continued, and after visiting his doctor in September 2015 and requesting a referral to Wrightington Hospital for a second opinion, the loosening of Mr Brolly's hip replacement was finally diagnosed and a procedure was performed at Wrightington and completed without complications. Since being discharged, he has experienced no pain.

Medical negligence firm Fletchers Solicitors, brought a claim against Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust who admitted liability in April, apologised and paid out a five-figure sum (not disclosed) to Mr Brolly.

Mr Brolly said: "Although I'm happy the ordeal is over, it's been difficult to shake off my anxiety as I'm always waiting for the pain to return.

"It's extremely difficult to explain just how bad the pain was. I could just about manage to go to work as a HGV driver, but this was certainly impacted by my lack of mobility and the high dose of medication I was taking.

"As a result, I had to take time off, which contributed to me being made redundant. I then had to take a role elsewhere that paid considerably less."

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Brave cancer battler Isabel raises £13,000 for charity - with a little help from former Liverpool star Carra

Report by **Tom Martin**

Isabel with husband Stuart and their two children.

A TEACHER from Ormskirk who is battling a rare and aggressive form of brain cancer enlisted the help of a former Premier Division footballer to help kick-start a charity fundraiser.

Isabel Morison was diagnosed with primary glioblastoma in February this year.

And although the 39-year-old mother-of-two has already undergone intensive chemotherapy and radiography, because the cancer is so aggressive and unpredictable, treatments are limited in the UK and she is constantly researching other options.

Fantastic total

She is currently trying to raise £100,000 to fund a treatment called immunotherapy, which is known to be working successfully in treating some previously incurable cancers, but faces a race against time due to the prognosis of her condition.

Despite her own fight though, Isabel still took time out to organise a charity fun day in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support at Sacred Heart Catholic College in Crosby where she teaches music.

And former Liverpool FC star Jamie Carragher joined in the fun at the event which raised a fantastic total of more than £13,000.

Isabel said: "The success of the day was never in doubt with the team of fabulous people organising but, I am truly amazed by what was pulled off.

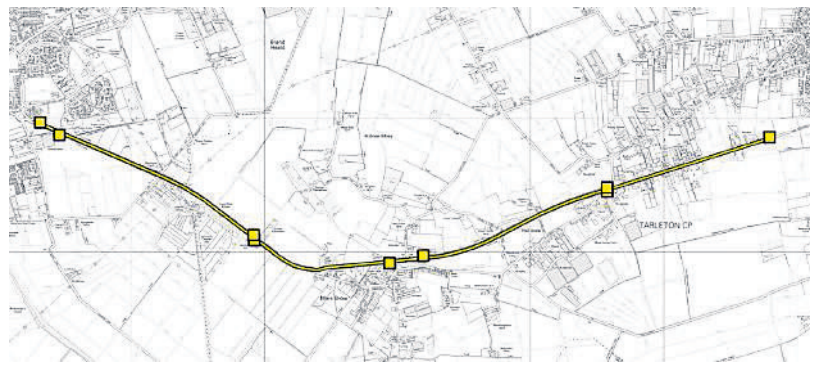
"Sacred Heart Catholic College showed how community is done yet again. Everyone I spoke to had an amazing day and that was evident in the atmosphere around school."

To donate to Isabel's cause go to website: https://uk.gofundme.com /isabel-treatment-fund.

Speeding drivers caught on camera!

6,356 motorists clocked breaking the limit in first 12 months of A565 road safety scheme

Report by **Henry James**



The length of the A565 covered by the average speed cameras is 3.7 miles.

A SAFETY scheme designed to check the speed of motorists on the A565 Southport New Road in West Lancashire has caught an astonishing 6,356 drivers in its first year of operation.

The 'average speed camera' scheme, went into operation in August last year, and has not been slow in catching out drivers going beyond the 50mph limit - figures also revealed that one motorist was clocked doing 101mph!

The Lancashire Road Safety Partnership gave the go ahead for the scheme in January 2017 in a bid to reduce road casualties and collisions on a stretch of road considered to be an accident black spot.

The cameras were enforced from the Gravel Lane roundabout at Banks, to Mere Brow roundabout and on towards the traffic lights at Tarleton - a total of 3.7 miles.

The cameras use number plate recognition technology to detect vehicles and calculate their average speed by measuring the time taken to travel between fixed points of a known distance apart. Average speed check signage is used to inform drivers that they are entering an average speed control zone.

A spokesperson for Lancashire Police said: "The introduction of the system is intended to positively influence driver behaviour and ensure that motorists comply with the set limits on roads, resulting in a safer environment for all road users."

Reports have said more than half the offences during the first year were recorded between 60 and 70mph. During the first month 1,000 people were caught on this stretch, but the numbers being caught decreased by November.

Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety say they are pleased to see a reduction in the number of people caught speeding.

Anyone detected breaching the speed limits, where eligible, will be given the opportunity to attend a speed awareness course to learn about the dangers of speeding, accept a conditional offer of a fixed penalty (currently £100 and three penalty points) or for higher speeds the matter may be referred to court.

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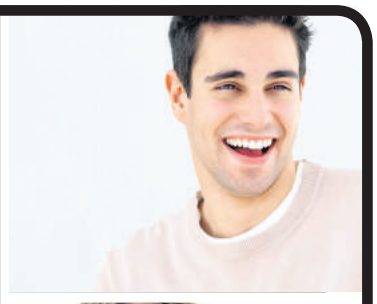

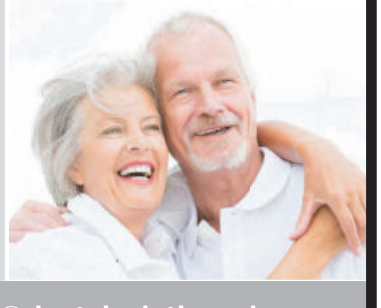

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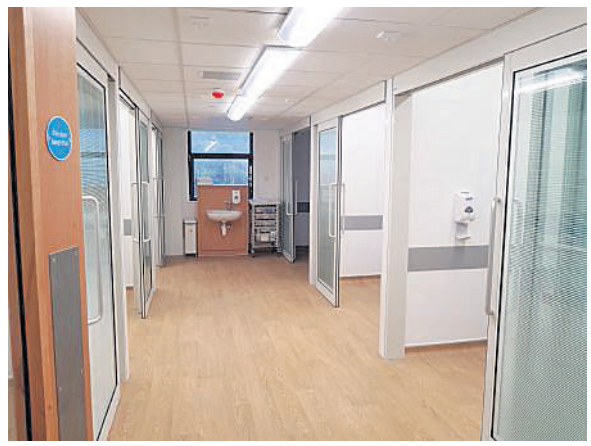
Hospital's surgical assessment unit set to go operational!

PATIENTS in West Lancashire requiring surgery at Southport Hospital will benefit from a £280,000 investment at the site.

The new Surgical Assessment Unit on Ward 10B was completed last week and is scheduled to be fully operational by the beginning of October.

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has also begun work on the final phase of an extension and refurbishment to A&E at the hospital. There will be a bigger reception and waiting area, and a much-needed additional clinical assessment space to support a timely handover of patients arriving by ambulance.

The programme of improvements is part of a £1.25m investment that includes the eight-bed Clinical Decision Unit opened in the spring.



The new surgical assessment unit

A&E will continue to operate as usual during the work which is due to finish by late November. Drop-off parking immediately outside the department is unavailable until then.

Convenient

Southport Hospital is also replacing an ageing CT scanner. The £350,000 contract is part of a wholesale review of the radiology estate which will see the Southport Hospital MRI scanner replaced in 2019 and the Ormskirk CT scanner in 2022.

Kath Higgins, head of nursing for planned care, said: "The new Surgical Assessment Unit is a new, dedicated space for patients with urgent referrals for surgery, as well as some patients arriving for planned procedures.

"It will be more convenient for them, their families and the staff who treat them. Because the unit can only be used for surgical patients, it will also mean fewer cancellations."

The £280,000 funding boost was pledged to Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, to help staff prepare ahead of winter.

Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, said £145 million of capital investment had been prioritised from within the department's capital budget for hospitals across the country to help fund improved emergency care, new beds, and enhanced equipment.

He added: "Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust identified a scheme that can help with its emergency care capacity."

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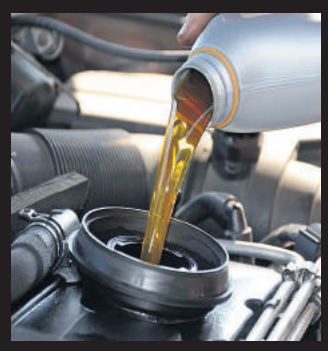
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Travis aiming to spread message of global peace

Edge Hill student caught up in Westminster Bridge attack helps bring survivors of terrorism together

A STUDENT at Edge Hill University who was caught up in the Westminster Bridge terrorist attack in London has helped to organise a free conference bringing together survivors of terrorism from across the world.

Travis Frain, a third-year history with politics student at the Ormskirk campus, was on a study trip to the Houses of Parliament in March 2017 when he was hit by a car driven deliberately at pedestrians.

The 20-year-old suffered multiple injuries and needed surgery and was hospitalised in London for eight days.

Following his recovery, he found support from the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation, a charity for victims of terrorism set up by the families of the two children killed in the IRA bombing in Warrington 25 years ago.

Now a volunteer trustee of the Foundation, Travis is hoping the Survivors for Peace conference to be staged in Warrington on Friday, September 21 to coincide with United Nations International Peace Day, will give people the opportunity to share their experiences and kick-start a global network of survivors who will campaign and work for freedom, justice and peace.

Travis Frain

Travis said: "After the attack, I found that the Peace Foundation was the only thing in place to support myself and my family. I became a trustee as a way of giving something back and I'm delighted to have the chance to raise awareness of the charity through events like Survivors for Peace."

The conference, which is jointly hosted by One World Strong, an organisation set up by survivors of the Boston Marathon Bombing, will feature a number of key speakers including Deputy US Ambassador to the UK, Lew Lukens, and Dr Idit Albert, head of psychological trauma for terrorist incidents at NHS London.

Travis added: "The conference is primarily aimed at people affected by terrorism, but we believe professionals supporting survivors of violent conflict, the media, and the public more broadly will also find it interesting and valuable."

The Peace Foundation was established in 1995 to offer free practical and emotional support to people affected by terrorism.

In 2016, Edge Hill University awarded Colin and Wendy Parry OBE with honorary doctorates for their efforts in promoting peace and community education in the wake of a family tragedy.

● *Survivors for Peace: An International Peace Day Conference* will run from 10am to 4pm at the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Centre in Warrington.

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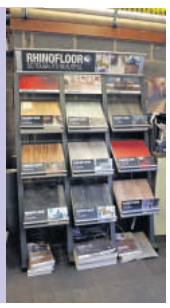

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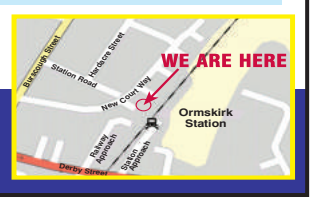

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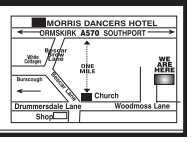

Council reveals plans to commemorate centenary of end of First World War

WEST Lancashire Borough Council has announced upcoming events to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

To honour the sacrifices made by men and women who served in the armed forces the council has bought three Silent Soldier Silhouettes from the Royal British Legion which have poppy emblems and a base plate plaque with the text 1914-1918 and 'Lest we forget'

These will be placed at the war memorials in Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and Burscough in October.

Around the time of Remembrance Sunday the Clock Tower in Ormskirk and the Light Cube in Skelmersdale will be coloured red to show wider community respect for the commemorations.

And on Remembrance Sunday, November 11, a piper's tribute will play When the Battle's O'er in Coronation Park, Ormskirk, at 6am to mark the time when the Armistice was signed 100 years before.

Veterans' organisations, the borough council and a number of parish councils and local churches will be organising Remembrance Sunday services during the day in Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and across West Lancashire, as they do each year.

Then in the evening a beacon will be lit in Beacon Country Park at 7pm as West Lancashire joins more than 370 councils and 1,000 beacon sites across the country in a collective act of respect and recognition. Prior to the lighting of the beacons at 6.55pm the Last Post will be played across the country.

Silent Soldier Silhouettes also been placed at Lathom Park Chapel as part of events to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

The borough council says it will announce further details of all these tributes in the coming weeks. For more details of events and First World War commemorations visit the new page on the council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/ww1.

The local authority-owned Chapel Gallery in St Helens Road, Ormskirk will also host a World War One Heritage Project recognising the role of women during the 1914-18 war, focusing on a number of women with strong links to West Lancashire.

The council has been successful in securing funding from Heritage Lottery to develop this in partnership with Edge Hill University and Ormskirk and District Family History Society.

The exhibition, 'Opening the Gates', will involve local schools and is planned to run from October 6 until January 19, 2019.

West Lancs Council's chief executive officer, Kim Webber, said: "West Lancashire is very proud of its links with the armed forces and the council is proud to play its role in recognising the importance of commemorating the centenary of World War One.

"We will all gather with great pride at Remembrance Sunday services and other events to pay our respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice."

The council will also be cleaning its memorials and working with Up Holland Parish Council to re-gild the name plaques on the Up Holland war memorial.

Residents who get a fruit tree through the authority's Free Tree Scheme will also be given a pack of Flanders red poppy seeds.

The popular War Horse Walk leaflet has been relaunched and is available from the council offices, the customer service point at the Concourse shopping centre and the Skelmersdale and Ormskirk libraries or can be downloaded at www.DiscoverOrmskirk.com.

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Legal firm shut down by industry regulator

Report by **Kenny Parker**

AN Ormskirk legal firm has been shut down by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) following what it described as "suspected dishonesty" by its director.

The closure of Ice Blue Legal in Church Street, has led to the immediate loss of jobs for its six staff with clients' cases being transferred to another firm.

Former wills and probate manager with the company, Carole Connell, said that she had been on holiday when she received a message informing her not to return to work.

As well as being shocked and distressed by loss of her job, she says she is also devastated that she is not able to contact her established clientele to offer them reassurance.

The SRA said it shut down the firm, which dealt with personal injury and medical negligence claims as well as wills and probate, on Tuesday September 4.

Ice Blue Legal which was shut down by the Solicitors Regulation Authority

Suspended

A spokesperson said: "The Solicitors Regulation Authority has intervened into the practice of Barbara Gribbin, formerly at Ice Blue Legal LLP.

"The grounds of intervention are reason to suspect dishonesty on the part of Mrs Gribbin as a manager of Ice Blue Legal LLP, and that she has failed to comply with the rules made under sections 31 and 32 of the Solicitors Act.

"The practicing certificate of Barbara Gribbin has been automatically suspended, so she cannot practice as a solicitor.

"An intervention means the SRA has closed a firm with immediate effect. It will stop the firm from operating, take possession of all documents and papers held by the firm, and take possession of all money held by the firm (including clients' money).

"The SRA has appointed an agent to deal with all matters currently held by Ice Blue Legal LLP. The agent will assess all ongoing matters and deal with those of greatest need first. The SRA's archive team will take control of all documents held by the firm.

"Clients of Ice Blue Legal LLP do not need to contact either the agent or the SRA at this time. If anyone does have a query, however, they can contact the agent, John Owen of Gordons LLP, by calling 01274 709521, or emailing intervention@gordonsllp.com.

"The SRA will now investigate further the issues raised that have led to this intervention to see if any additional action is necessary."

The spokesperson added that further action could be a sanction by SRA or if decided that a stiffer punishment is required, the SRA will prosecute the matter at the independent Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal.

Former staff member, Carole said she is devastated. She said: "I was away from the office on holiday and whilst away learned that not only had I, and the rest of the staff, been made redundant, but that I should not return to the office when due on August 28 as it would be closed.

"Having not received any wages or redundancy pay and facing the shocking closure, you can imagine how distressing the situation has been for us all.

"I have built up important client relationships over the years and I'm devastated that I am unable to contact most of them at this time to at least offer reassurance."

Ice Blue Legal has been approached for comment.

Anyone wishing to contact SRA can do so at http://www.sra.org.uk/contact-us/; or by phoning0370 606 2555.

Chance to hand in knives during surrender campaign

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire are being urged to hand in weapons as part of a national knife surrender campaign.

During the week-long initiative running from Tuesday (September 18) Lancashire Police is encouraging members of the public to dispose of knives anonymously at stations in the county.

In Skelmersdale knife bins will be available at the Tanhouse and Digmoor community stations.

The surrender is part of Operation Sceptre, which aims to remove dangerous weapons from the street, reduce knife crime and raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife.

Chief Inspector Mark Baines, Lancashire Police's co-ordinator for the knife surrender, said: "While knife crime is not a major problem in the county, a knife is a lethal weapon and even one on Lancashire's streets is one too many.

"During our last campaign in February, 106 knives were surrendered to police. Among the weapons given up were combat knives, kitchen knives and large blades. I hope that our communities will again help us to remove such items and help to keep everyone safe. If anyone is in possession of a knife and is unsure what to do about it, I would urge them to take this opportunity to dispose of it anonymously and safely.."

Ch. Insp. Mark Baines with some of knives previously surrendered.

There will also be special bins at five designated police stations in the county - Burnley, Greenbank (Blackburn), Preston, Morecambe, and Nelson. Anyone can dispose of a weapon anonymously, whether it belongs to them, a friend or a relative.

Any knives or offensive weapons which are too large for the bins can be handed in at the front counters at the designated police stations, and residents are asked to ensure the knives are wrapped in newspaper, cardboard or tape before being left.

The surrender runs until Monday, September 24.

Divers' tribute to victims of tragic troop ship sinking

THE founder of a West Lancs-based diving equipment company has been part of a special underwater commemoration of a troop ship sunk off the coast of Scotland in the First World War.

470 men, mainly US solders, lost their lives on October 6 1918 when the HMS Otranto sank off the west coast of Islay following an accidental collision with another troop ship.

The tragedy followed the sinking eight months earlier in the same area of HMS Tuscania, which was torpedoed by a German U-boat with the loss of 210 lives.

Both events were commemorated earlier this year during an official service attended by Princess Anne alongside British, American, French and German servicemen.

Mike Armitage, 67, founder of Northern Diver in Appley Bridge, is a member of Badlads Diving group which makes annual trips to Islay. The group felt they had to do something in remembrance of HMS Otranto and during their trip this year the team dived 54 hours mapping and recording what remains of the ship's features including engines, boilers, portholes, propeller shafts.

The footage also captured a soldier's boot resting on a strand of cordite and Mike said "The boot was one of the most striking sights. Seeing that made it very real for us."

Mike Armitage and Pete Kenrick with their coins commemorating the sinking of HMS Otranto.

Also clearly recognisable is the ship's six-foot quick firing gun which the group cleaned of kelp before attaching US and British flags which Mike Armitage then saluted.

The Badlads film, which was recorded by member Pete Kenrick, will also be showcased at an event commemorating HMS Otranto's sinking by the American Legion (equivalent to the Royal British Legion) in Nashville, Georgia.

The American Legion provided the flags for their tribute and also gave a 100-year Otranto memorial coin to each member of the team.

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WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR READERS THINK?
See this week's letters on page 16

Council reminder to landlords about HMO law change

Report by **Henry James**

PRIVATE sector landlords are being reminded by West Lancashire Borough Council about changes to the law relating to the licensing of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

If landlords don't comply with the new legislation and licence any HMOs they have they could face prosecution or be issued with a civil penalty.

If the council issues a civil penalty against a landlord who has failed to licence a HMO they could be fined up to £30,000. Landlords who face criminal proceedings for failing to register a HMO can face unlimited fines.

Questions

Currently a HMO only has to be licensed if five or more people forming two or more households are living there who share cooking or bathing facilities and it has three or more storeys.

But from Monday, October 1 2018 the requirement for the property to have three or more storeys is being removed.

Landlords can download a HMO licence application form at www.westlancs.gov.uk/hmo or by contacting the council's Private Sector Housing Team on 01695 585279 or by email at privatesectorhousing@west-lancs.gov.uk.

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey, West Lancs Council's director of housing and inclusion

Any landlords with questions about HMOs can also contact the team.

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey, West Lancs Council's director of housing and inclusion, said: "The council wants to raise awareness of this change in legislation by the Government among landlords so they can get the HMOs they own licensed before the deadline of Monday, October 1 2018."

Christ Church tower

Towering attraction at church open day - weather permitting

CHRIST Church in Aughton is set to stage its popular annual open day on Saturday, September 22 when - weather permitting - visitors will be able to climb its tower and enjoy spectacular views.

The church in Long Lane will be opening its doors to visitors from noon to 4pm with musical performances and refreshments on offer, as well as an opportunity to meet and see its bell ringers in action.

Trips up the tower will be by timed ticket only, allocated on the day, although entry is free. The top of the tower offers breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside and as far as Blackpool Tower and North Wales and beyond. However, in the event of heavy rain the event will be cancelled.

Curate, Sarah O'Donoghue, said: "The tower open day is a very popular event within our community. Climbing the 151 steps to the top gives fantastic views."

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OLD BED RECYCLING SERVICE

‘Don’t miss out on benefits’ plea to county’s elderly

Report by **Kenny Parker**

OFFICIALS at Lancashire County Council’s Welfare Rights Service are reminding older people in the county to make sure that they receive the benefits which they are entitled to.

According to the service many older residents, particularly those over 75, are not claiming benefits such as Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.

Although eligible to have a benefit check completed by the Welfare Rights Service, a lot of residents are reluctant to ask for help, or to discuss their finances.

Over the last 12 months the Welfare Rights Service has helped older residents to claim nearly £2.7 million of benefits that they are entitled to receive.

County Councillor Shaun Turner, the county council’s cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: “Our Welfare Rights Service provides free and confidential help and advice with benefit problems for Lancashire residents.

“We are dealing with some of our most vulnerable people, unfortunately many have no idea what financial support they are entitled to, or have ever claimed a benefit before.

Elderly residents can get a free and confidential benefit check by ringing the county council’s Welfare Rights Service on 0300 123 6739.

“Sometimes people feel uncomfortable about asking for help, but we would ask anyone who thinks they could be entitled to contact us.

“Now that winter is approaching, and we expect the weather to get colder, I would urge pensioners to get in touch and ask for a free and confidential benefits check.

“It is rewarding to be able to help so many people and see the difference the extra money in their pockets makes to their lives. In some cases a few extra pounds a week can make a very big difference to someone on a tight budget.”

The Welfare Rights Service regularly works with district councils, the Pension Service and the Department for Work and Pensions to check the entitlements of Lancashire residents. This means millions of pounds of extra benefits are secured by local people and the local economy.

For a free and confidential benefit check phone the Welfare Rights Service on 0300 123 6739 or email infowrs@lancashire.gov.uk

More information is available at www.lancashire.gov.uk/benefits-and-grants.

And for more details about keeping warm and well in winter go online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter/keeping-well.

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New care hub opens at Ormskirk Hospital

Report by **Kenny Parker**

VIRGIN Care has opened a new care hub in the grounds of Ormskirk Hospital which brings together different adult community services under one roof.

Teams, including community matrons, specialist nurses, dieticians and community therapists, which were previously located across the area, are now based in Bickerstaffe House.

Virgin says it is a more joined-up and collaborative approach to the delivery of care for patients locally.

An official opening will take place on Thursday, September 20 involving stakeholders including the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, patient representatives and staff.

As part of the project, Virgin Care says it has invested in a full refurbishment of the building to ensure it is suited to the needs of its community teams and services and is set up to support collaboration. The company says it forms part of its wider investment plan to deliver more co-ordinated community services locally.

Virgin Care runs Adult Community Services and Urgent Care Services on behalf of the NHS in West Lancashire which includes community nursing and Skelmersdale and Ormskirk Walk-in Centres.

Debbie Curran head of community services in West Lancs.

Claire Heneghan, chief nurse at NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Debbie Curran, head of community services in West Lancashire, said: "The relocation of services is a key part of our transformation plan for West Lancashire Adult Community Services. By co-locating our community services under one roof in a purpose-designed space we aim to provide a more integrated and person-centred approach to the delivery of care in West Lancashire which will ultimately improve patients' experiences of our service.

"The majority of patients will still see us in the same places they do today - but this change will mean that our colleagues can work more closely together. It's a really exciting time for our teams who are already feeling the benefits of being in a shared working space."

Claire Heneghan, chief nurse at NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "It is fantastic how teams have been brought together to enable easy communication and enhanced team working, within a fabulous environment, which embraces the use of technology to support care.

"This is the next step within the CCG's vision to provide co-ordinated care to patients who really need it in West Lancashire."

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Police are looking for this gang

Transport police seek yobs who spat at mother on train

BRITISH Transport Police have issued a belated appeal to track down a gang of young yobs who spat in the face of a mother and attacked a father on a train in a row over a pram.

Report by **Henry James**

The incident took place on a Northern Rail service on the Southport-Manchester line as it travelled between Appley Bridge and Wigan Wallgate at about 5.45 to 6.10pm on Tuesday, May 29.

The father asked a group of youths to be careful as they had previously knocked the couple's baby's pram.

His request led to a verbal exchange and the group made threats to the family.

They then threw a bottle at the man, kicked him on his side after he fell to the floor and spat in the mother's face.

Officers would like to speak to the boys featured in the CCTV images (pictured) as they believe they may have information which could help the investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to contact BTP by calling 0800 40 50 40 or texting 61016, with reference 523 of May 29. Alternatively they can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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'At St Bede's we believe that we are part of God's creative process; providing the opportunity for each individual to flourish in order to serve the Common Good' (Mission Statement)

OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 25th September 2018

"Teaching is consistently good. Pupils benefit from their teachers' strong subject knowledge and their effective planning of activities."

"Pupils' behaviour around the school and in lessons is good. Pupils are polite and take pride in their appearance. The large majority are keen to learn, and teachers expect them to work hard."

"School leaders and governors have set a clear vision for the school that promotes pupils' achievement within a calm and supportive community."
(Section 5 Ofsted Inspection October 2015)

Summer 2018 - in 2018, 80% of pupils achieve 5 or more grades 9-4 including English and Maths

The evening will start at 6.00pm and finish at 8.30pm. A welcome address will be given by Mr Marston, Chair of Governors and Mr Denton, Head Teacher at 6.05pm and 7.15pm.

St Anne's Road, Ormskirk L39 4TA
Telephone: 01695 570335
Email: admin@sbchs.co.uk • Web: www.sbchs.co.uk • Twitter @stbedes1957

Military memorabilia group are geared up for weekend display

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Members of the Heatons Bridge Military Vehicle Group at a previous display.

MEMBERS of the public are invited to go along to a display of military hardware as a local history group gear up to put their collections on show at a biannual event.

The Heatons Bridge Military Vehicle Group will display a whole range of vehicles and other war memorabilia at the Heatons Bridge Inn, Scarisbrick on Saturday and Sunday, September 22 and 23.

The gatherings at the venue have become established as twice-yearly events, courtesy of proprietors Steve and Jacqui Winrow.

Retained

The military enthusiasts group preserves and renovates vehicles and equipment of different ages and displays them at various shows and events across the region.

As well as the display, visitors on the Saturday will get to see some of vehicles - mainly jeeps and Land Rovers - take part in a 'road run' around 1pm.

There will also be a military camp and de-activated weapons to see.

Steve and Jacqui have retained a Second World War free-standing brick pillbox which formed part of the home-guard defence provisions on the grounds. That will also be part of the display.

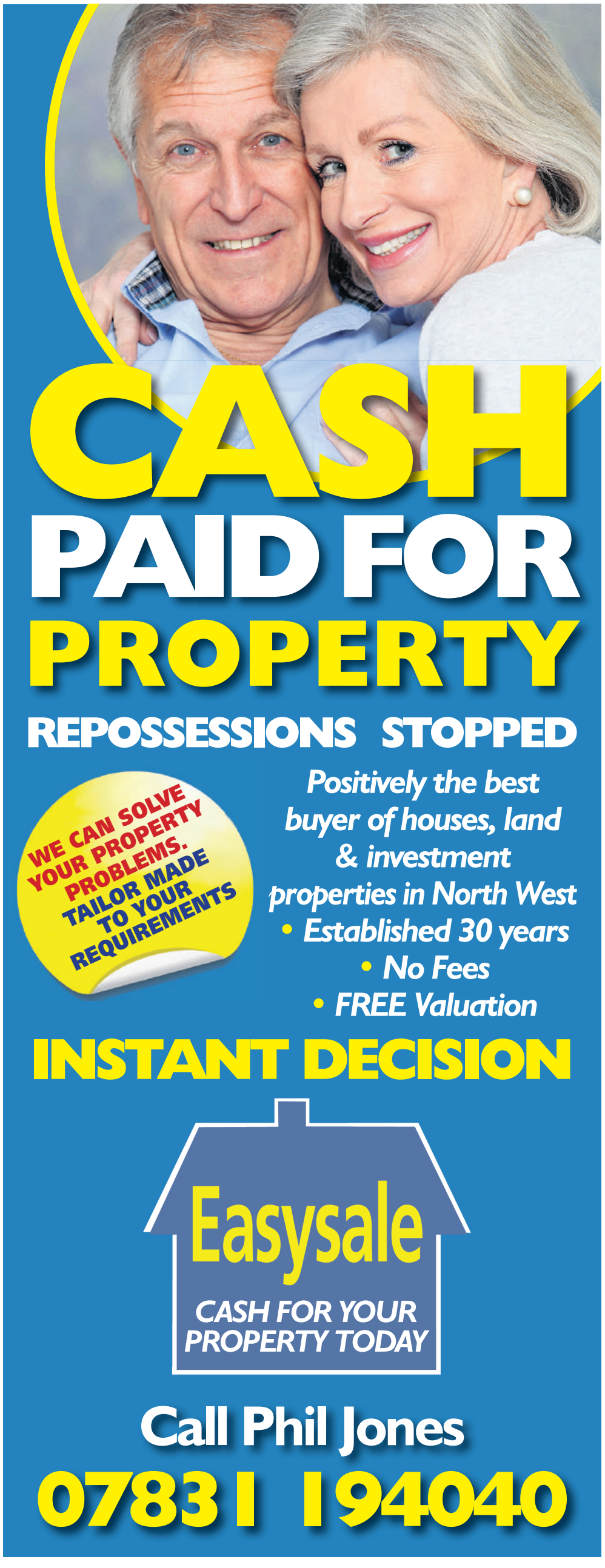
Organiser, Paul Connolly, said: "The road run gives the vehicles a chance to 'clear out their cobwebs' and makes a fun sight for unsuspecting members of the public who suddenly see a bunch of WW2 vehicles passing by, waving, and occasionally operating their horns and sirens!"

Heatons Bridge Inn is located on Heatons Bridge Road, near to the Leeds-Liverpool Canal.

The event is free and organisers advise that it will wind down from Sunday afternoon. Enthusiasts will be on hand to answer any questions.

For more details contact Paul Connolly on 01704 545786 or group secretary, Angela Brown on 07774931464.

Got a story? Ring the News Desk on 01704 392400



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Super League rugby squad pledge support for 24-hour walk in aid of PTSD

Report by **Kenny Parker**

MEMBERS of the Wigan Warriors Super League rugby squad have pledged to lend their support to a fundraising event in aid of a West Lancs charity that uses rescue horses to provide therapy for ex-servicemen, blue light workers and others suffering the effects of mental trauma.

Stable Lives, a community interest company based at Parbold Equestrian Centre, aims to raise awareness about the effects that post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and mental trauma can have on sufferers and their families.

The group's next major fundraising event is a 44-mile sponsored walk from Preston to Parbold over 24 hours.

This will begin at Broughton ambulance control station at 3pm on Friday, September 28 and is scheduled to finish at the same time the following day at the equestrian centre in Bradshaw Lane, Parbold where the walkers will be greeted by the Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney.

The centre provides courses and utilises equine therapy and land-based activities to improve confidence, self-esteem and self-worth for those suffering with mental trauma.

This is the third year the company has undertaken an event to raise awareness and funds for the cause. Last year teams carried a stretcher up and down Parbold Hill for 24 hours.

Stable Lives founder, Carrie Byrom, said: "A number of Wigan Warriors rugby players will join us at the beginning of the walk and then the following day as we progress through Wigan. The money that we raise will go directly into courses and respite days for individuals and their families dealing with the effects of exposure to mental trauma.

Carrie Byron (left) with one of the teams which took part in last year's 24 hour sponsored stretcher carrying up and down Parbold Hill to raise money for Stable Lives charity.

"If anyone wants to join us as an individual for the whole walk then they are welcome. We currently have a mix of our volunteers, military veterans, paramedics, police and firemen but if people are keen and fit then they are very welcome.

"Alternatively anyone wanting to join in for just a part of the walk can get in touch and we will tell them where we are expected to be at certain times along the route.

"Also any groups wanting to take part - such as guides, scouts or explorers for example - would also be more than welcome."

For more information you can contact Stable Lives on Facebook; by email at stablelives@hotmail.com; or via the website at www.stable-lives.co.uk. Donations can be made through Facebook or at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stable-lives.

Name change for advice service

CITIZENS Advice Lancashire West has changed its name to Citizens Advice Lancashire after expanding to take over the service for Blackburn and Darwen.

Chief Executive, Diane Gradwell, said: "We are pleased to announce we are now able to provide the much-needed Citizens Advice services for the residents of Blackburn with Darwen as well as the residents of West Lancashire, Chorley, South Ribble and Wyre."

The charity has also obtained accreditation as a Disability Confident Committed Employer as part of a Government scheme aimed at helping employers to recruit, retain and develop people with disabilities and health conditions.

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For Year 7 Entry 2019

Thursday 27 September 2018
6.00pm-8.30pm

Headteacher's speech at 6.30pm & 7.30pm

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Loss of Green Belt would be devastating for our community both present and in the future

RE: The West Lancs Local Plan 'preferred options' we would like to register our objections to the proposals for Bickerstaffe ward.

Bickerstaffe is a small farming community. Loss of Green Belt land will be devastating - not only for the present - but future generations. (No point in building lots of houses - and there is nowhere on which to grow food to feed people). A precedent will be set to use Green Belt land when there is plenty of other land and brownfield sites.

As a small, rural community, we cannot sustain an influx of people on the scale proposed. Gone will be the community aspect of village school, mission hall, pensioners days out, etc.. In short, the lifestyle of residents will be lost forever.

It is over 50 years since the community of Old Skelmersdale was destroyed by building Skelmersdale New Town and the promises made then have never been fulfilled. Now the 'powers that be' want to destroy Bickerstaffe and surrounding areas.

It would seem there are planning legislations in force to protect sites which house great-crested newts, bats, barn owls etc. - what about protecting community sites for humans!

Bickerstaffe has already suffered from a motorway being built which cut the parish in half, losing land and houses in the process; been forced to suffer the eyesore of electricity pylons built across the parish; lost our bus service, post office and shops, and don't even have a gas supply. Enough is enough!

If the officers making these decisions think it is morally acceptable to destroy our community and farmland, then they are either totally insane or blinded by the monetary incentives on offer.

Iain and Linda Mathie, Bickerstaffe.

Why no mention of proposed Skem railway station in Local Plan Review?

IN a recent Champion article about West Lancs Council's grand plan for the borough there was comment that the proposed Skelmersdale railway station did not seem to be included.

Hopefully a station will eventually be built, but when it is, plenty of land must be set aside for car parking. Being so close and convenient to the M58 it will become extremely popular with commuters.

The brand new Maghull North station is designated a 'park and ride' for Liverpool but already this has proved totally inadequate. Even before the road signs were put up to advertise it, the car park filled up completely every weekday.

Otherwise the new station would have been very handy for Skem people travelling into the city as it's only a 10-minute drive away from here, close to junction 1 of the motorway and only 20 minutes from Liverpool Central l with a train every 15 minutes.

So, when it comes to Skem station, please will the planners get their sums right?

Adrian Tayler,
Tanhouse, Skelmersdale.

We don't need 15,000 new homes!

I AM dismayed by the publication of the proposed new Local Plan.

Nobody wants 15,000 new homes in the area - the district does not need 15,000 new homes.

The Green Belt should be preserved and fields should not be dug up to be replaced with housing.

If the council was so desperate for new houses, why have they allowed premises such as the Fat Olive restaurant, The Elms surgery and the Post Office to be converted into student accommodation?

The council should be ensuring that Edge Hill does more to provide student flats on campus, thus freeing up houses in town.

I believe the current Local Plan runs until 2027,so why is there such a need for a new radical plan now?

The council's priorities should be easing congestion through Ormskirk town centre and filling up the empty shops (and not with charity shops).

Paul Coney, by email.

PICTURE of the week

Members of Southport Model Railway Society in period costume last Saturday as they met at the town's railway station to embark on a special journey to mark 170 years since a rail link was established between Southport and Liverpool in 1848. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Advert about staying in the EU was factually inaccurate

I WISH to complain in the strongest possible way about an advert that you carried in the Champion dated September 12.

I realise that the purpose of any advert is to enhance the subject of the advert but not to tell outright lies or to be factually inaccurate. The phrase 'this is probably the best beer' is acceptable. 'this is the best beer in the world' is not.

The advert in question appeared was titled 'We Must Stay In The European Union'.

I fully accept that many people have different opinions about this subject and welcome an honest debate. The problem was, that this advert contains numerous statements that are factually inaccurate.

Claims such as 'We can stop Brexit', are factually wrong. Brexit has been started and cannot be stopped. The advert claimed that, 'the value of the pound will continue to fall'. At the time of publication, the value of the pound had been rising for several weeks.

The advert claimed that millions of British people work in Europe and millions more work in the UK. This is correct. What is not correct is the 'ALL' of them are worried about Brexit. You only have to find one person that isn't worried and this statement is proven to be false. The rest of the advert is littered with statements that are unsubstantiated and lack any evidence to support them.

I am surprised and disappointed that a paper of your quality would allow such a blatantly false advertisement to appear.

Dr Marc Stanton, by email.

Margaret's right about street lights

HAVING read the front page story in the Skelmersdale Champion (September 12) headed 'Not Such A Bright Idea', I could not agree more with Margaret Huyton about the change in the street lighting.

I have lived on the Tanhouse estate for just over 20 years and seen a gradual change and not for the better.

Grass verges are in a poor state and since becoming a member of the 'walking stick brigade' I have also become aware of the poor state of some footpaths, especially those that are flagged, because of their proximity to mature trees whose roots are lifting flags making a hazard for the elderly and those who have to use a walking stick.

And now we have bad lighting to put up with.

Chris Grogan, Tanhouse.

Authorities need to do more to deter the red light 'jumpers' at danger junction

I REFER to the letter by Mr A. Prescott (Champion, September 5) with regards to County Road in Ormskirk.

On Tuesday, September 11 , there was yet another collision at the Hayfield junction. I don't know the cause, however, given the location of the damage to both saloons, I can speculate.

I don't feel that his proposal of making this a 30mph stretch will have that much of a significant impact on collision reduction.

Firstly, for me, it will never get enforced as the presence of Roads Policing Officers - aside from Lancashire Partnership vehicles covering the south division of Lancashire Police - particularly in Ormskirk are non-evident.

Secondly, I don't think that a reduction in the speed limit will deter anyone from still chancing their arm and jumping a red light.

For me, the only deterrent is a traffic signal camera which will cause drivers to think twice about contravening a red traffic signal

I regularly travel to work through this junction and have fortunately never had a collision, although I have had near misses crossing the major road, caused by vehicles traveling along the A59, jumping the red light, especially early morning.

Having been a driver for 31 years and of that, driving 26 years within my professional capacity, I would be quite happy to stand up in a court and say that the majority haven't been travelling in excess of the speed limit. It is just the Russian roulette of thinking that it is safe to jump the red light.

This letter is however in support of Mr Prescott's view that something needs to be done before the next unnecessary collision occurs and this time, potentially fatal.

Come on West Lancs Council and Lancashire County Councill you can't 'unknow what you know.' This junction is a potential death trap and as a public body, you need to be cognisant of Human Rights legislation and the rights to be protected by Article 2 - our right to life and the protection of it by law.

Concerned public servant, details provided.

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

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To continue to provide our services free of charge we need to raise more than £3,500 every day. We rely on the support of the local community through fundraising events, campaigns and donations

In addition to this our charity shops bring in vital income for the hospice. We currently have four charity shops situated in North Liverpool and South Sefton: Norris Green, Orrell Park, Old Swan and Maghull. We are always looking to open new shops and will be opening more shops in the near future.

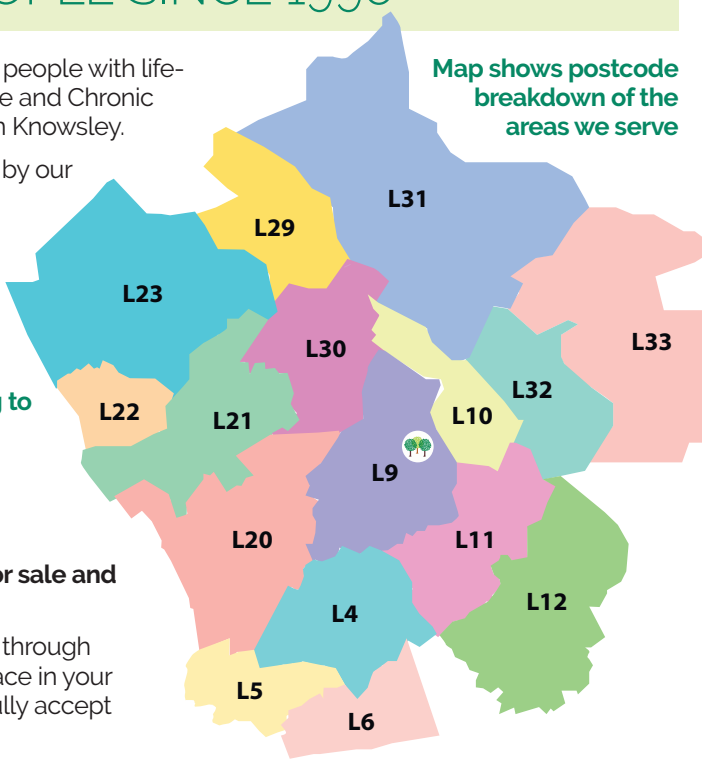
All our shops sell a wide variety of items, from good quality ladies, gents and children's clothing and shoes, to household items.

Please pop in and see the lovely selection of items we have for sale and grab yourself a bargain or two!

We are always looking for donations of good quality items to sell through our shops. Maybe you have unwanted clothing just taking up space in your wardrobe you would like to donate. Each of our shops will gratefully accept donations during open hours.

If you cannot drop off your donations, please contact us on **0151 529 2630** and we will be more than happy to collect items from you.

Map shows postcode breakdown of the areas we serve



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Maghull L31 0DQ
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Liverpool L11 1BY
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Monday to Saturday 9.00am - 4.30pm
Telephone: 0151 345 8081

Old Swan

531 Prescot Road,
Old Swan L13 5UR
Opening hours:
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Telephone: 0151 345 0230

Orrell Park

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Drivers Needed

Alongside our shop volunteers we are also seeking drivers for our shops and hospice. Drivers play a vital role in ensuring all our shops have quality goods to sell.
If you feel you would like to volunteer please contact: Ruth Garrett Admin & Volunteer Services Manager **0151 529 8389**

Van Needed

We are also currently seeking a van through donation or sponsorship for the use of the drivers to aid their work.
Please contact Jonathan Burgess
Head of Trading **0151 529 5243** or **07815 954098.**

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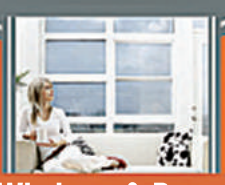

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Animal Magic set to light up Martin Mere

Popular family event returns to wetland centre

Report by **Henry James**

Eye-to-eye (almost) with a feathered friend . . . a youngster gets up close to an owl at a previous Animal Magic event at Martin Mere.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is staging its wildlife spectacular, Animal Magic on Saturday and Sunday, September 22 and 23.

Working with Exotic Zoo, regularly featured on TV's *Blue Peter*, Animal Magic is the Burscough centre's most popular family event, with more than 5,000 people attending last year.

Visitors can meet an armadillo, go on a donkey ride, see meerkats, hug a greyhound, visit a petting zoo, watch Asian short-clawed otters play, get close to a variety of birds of prey or be scared by lots of reptiles and insects!

And as most of the displays will be indoors, a great day out is guaranteed whatever the weather.

Amazing

Centre manager, Nick Brooks, said: "Animal Magic is our most popular family event at the centre. We always try to do events at Martin Mere that provide a fantastic opportunity for our visitors to experience something new.

"You can get very close to or stroke animals such as an armadillo and meerkats and see all kinds of animals you'd be unlikely to come across in your day-to-day life and it is amazing to see so many children enjoy the experience."

Among the many events and experiences on offer over the weekend are:

- Free pond-dipping at the Pond House to discover what creatures you can see in the ponds. There will also be a range of family craft activities for children between 11am and 4pm, including making animal ears. Some may include a small charge.
- Wild Walk - meander through the muddy meadow, wander in the wet woods and get lost in a reedy ramble spotting wildlife and giant sculptures.
- Have a go on Martin Mere's award-winning canoe safari and boat tour experience, as well as building dens out of conifer and exploring the new adventure play area.

Events run from 10am to 4pm and normal admission prices apply. For further information go to ww.wwt.org.uk/martinmere and click on events, or call 01704 891220.

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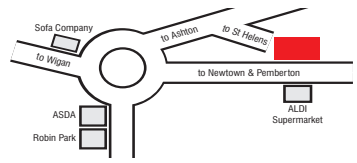

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Group's grand gesture for lung foundation

MEMBERS of the West Lancs and Southport Breathe Easy group have presented a cheque for £1,000 to Petra McCauley of the British Lung Foundation (BLF).

The welcome donation will be used by the foundation to help fund vital ongoing research into respiratory diseases.

Following the presentation at the Breath Easy group's recent meeting Petra explained to members how the BLF and other respiratory charities, such as Asthma UK, are combining together to fund essential cutting edge research.

Although lung disease has just as great an impact on the nation's health as heart disease or cancer, it only receives 2% of the UK charity medical spend.

BLF relies on its local Breathe Easy groups, run by volunteers, to fundraise for such research, as well as providing support and information for local sufferers.

In the North West area two pro-active groups offer help and support for people with respiratory disease and their families and carers.

These are the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy Group, which meets monthly in Ormskirk; and the Breathe Easy Sefton North Group, which meets monthly in Formby.

Petra McCauley of the British Lung Foundation (right) pictured with the cheque and West Lancs and Southport Breathe Easy group committee members Irene Norman (left) and Pauline Weeks.

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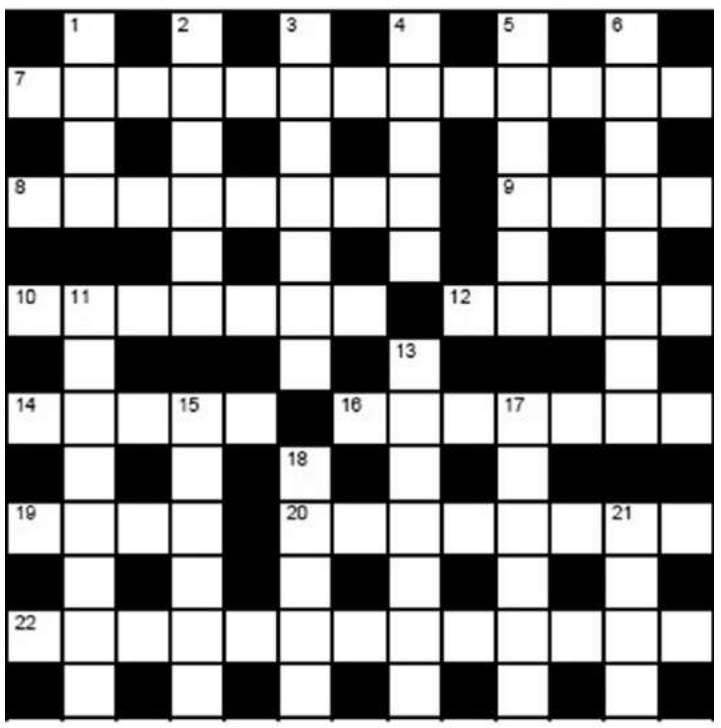

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Easily. 8. Tracer. 9. Tyre. 10. Lynchpin. 11. Express. 13. Blimp. 15. Sound. 17. Learned. 20. Ulterior. 21. Wade. 22. Actual. 23. Muesli.

Down: 1. Larynx. 2. Rive. 3. Cyclist. 4. Stunt. 5. Bachelor. 6. Tedium. 12. Runner up. 14. Begrime. 16. O'clock. 18. End-all. 19. Sidle. 21. Weep.

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ACROSS

7. Unspecified (13)
8. Pattern of letters, ideas or associations which helps in remembering something (8)
9. GCSE or A-Level for example (4)
10. Smith and Jones are common ones in the UK (7)
12. Belonging to them (5)
14. Condition (5)
16. Parting word (7)
19. Obscene talk, pictures or written material (4)
20. Act of turning about an axis (8)
22. Positively charged portion of matter consisting of two protons and two neutrons (5, 8)

DOWN

1. Archaic adverb meaning soon or shortly (4)
2. Religious talk (6)
3. Author's pseudonym (3, 4)
4. Sharp slap or blow, typically given with the palm of the hand (5)
5. Cause to become entangled in something (6)
6. In a regular and even manner (8)
11. Inopportune or premature (8)
13. Twist or bend out of the normal shape (7)
15. Irritable and bad-tempered (6)
17. Confine, hold up (6)
18. A light, thin fabric with a wrinkled surface (5)
21. Capital of Norway (4)

New parking meters difficult to use - claim

...but council says system offers 'exceptionally good value' and machines are standard in industry

Report by **Kenny Parker**

NEW parking meters introduced by West Lancs Council in Ormskirk town centre aimed at simplifying charges have been criticised as being difficult to operate, particularly for elderly drivers.

The authority implemented the new system for its car parks in the town earlier this year saying the move reflected ongoing discussions with local businesses who felt the previous pricing structure discouraged people staying for extended periods.

The revised charges mean that visitors can park at the authority's town-centre car parks for up to three hours for £1.

However, the new machines brought in as part of the changes have come under fire.

Local motorist Peter Clarke said: "Once again the council have surpassed themselves by ensuring that those using the new parking meters have to type in their registration number into the machine to get a ticket. You therefore have to stoop down to use a keypad in which the numbers are small and difficult to manage.

"No doubt this is to ensure that tickets are not passed around when someone leaves the car park and has some free time left. But whoever made this decision to install this income generator should go and see the impact this has had for a number of visitors, predominantly elderly, who have difficulty navigating this.

One of the new ticket machines.

Potential

"I was in a queue of seven people trying to get the tickets and I ended up assisting three to use the meter. All passed comment on how stupid this was and a couple of ladies became embarrassed and will probably be reluctant to return."

In response the council said that the new pricing scheme represents "exceptionally good value" for visitors and defended the introduction of the new machines.

A spokesperson told the Champion: "The new machines were bought to give the council more modern and better machines. They have potential for utilising video displays which can help promote both Ormskirk and other local businesses.

"The machines are capable of providing additional other useful functionality which will also be of benefit to car park users and local businesses, and the council is also looking into this.

"The entering of vehicle registrations into the system helps enable us to consider in future the utilisation of, for example, mobile phone top-up. Aside from taking the money for parking there is no intention to use them to make more money out of the motorist.

"It is now common practice for pay and display car parks to have machines where drivers enter their vehicle registration number. The replacement machines are as supplied by one of the largest suppliers of this type of equipment in the UK and as such are in regular use throughout the industry.

"In addition, the car parks are regularly patrolled by council officers who can help car park users if and when required."

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WWT

Martin Mere news

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Martin Mere awaits the arrival of the Geese

Over the next couple of weeks there will soon be the familiar sound of geese passing overhead – yes Autumn has officially begun, and WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre will soon be expecting the arrival of up to 30,000 Pink-footed geese after their journey from Iceland.

Reserve Manager, Louise Clewley, said: ""the geese need perfect weather conditions to make the journey from Iceland but we would expect up to 30,000+ geese using the reserve by late September and throughout October."

From Wednesday 3 October, Martin Mere will be open until 7pm every Wednesday and Saturday to allow visitors to watch the full spectacle of seeing the geese come into roost. Visitors need to have entered the centre before it closes at 6pm but the nature trail and hides will be open until 7pm. Normal admission charges apply.

On Saturday 6, 13, 20 & 27 October, experience the haunting sound and the thrill of an early morning hide visit with a warden. In past years at this time, the whooper swans have started to arrive back from Iceland and there will be thousands of pink-footed geese on the reserve – you can watch them as they wake and leave the roost. The event starts at 7am and includes a full English breakfast. The cost is £16 and you must book in advance online at wwt.org.uk/martinmere and visiting the 'What's on' page.

Seeing tens of thousands of geese "murmuring" and "honking" and ultimately taking off together is one of the greatest sights in nature and these events allow the community to take pride in the fact that the geese choose the North West to stop and rest.

WWT Martin Mere is open every day from 9.30am to 6pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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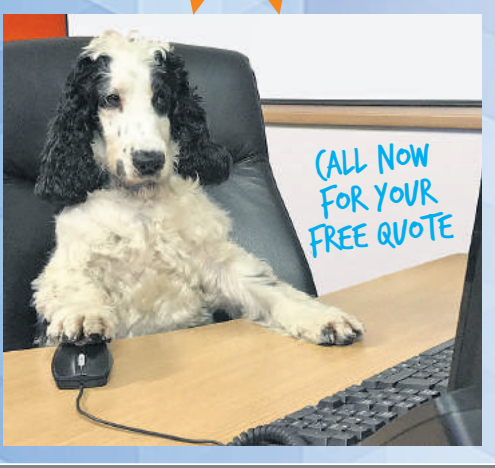

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School cleaning job taught me a valuable lesson

EVEN as I sit here tapping out this week's *Dog* I should in fact be sitting in a reserved seat as a guest at Maghull High School's annual presentation evening.

In fact, this will be the first of such evenings I have missed over the best part of 30 years, and though I cannot in all truth say they are a high spot of my year, they certainly do mark a milestone in my life.

The reason for my absence this time around is a real stinker of a cold, and though it has got somewhat better than it was yesterday, I'm still snivelling, coughing and wheezing like a - oh, I don't know, like a thing that wheezes.

For the first time in my life I don't reckon I'd be altogether welcome at the school. In fact, I well remember the school - then Maghull Secondary Modern - being built. It is but a five minute walk from where I live.

And it also provided me with my first (and only) experience of work outside journalism. When I, along with my boss, was made redundant from my job in the PR department at BT's Colchester HQ, I 'came home to mum' in Maghull and eventually to the Champion (while my boss arguably did better becoming an MP!).

Mind you, I still work for the Champion, while my erstwhile boss and friend got the sack in a subsequent election.

But back to Maghull High. Lounging around Maghull with time on my hands, I met the then caretaker at Maghull High who offered me a job as a school cleaner.

The early morning hours suited me fine, but it became apparent that my presence as the sole male cleaner upset one or two of the existing cleaning staff. So I agreed that instead of cleaning classrooms I would busy myself making sure the outsides of the school were clean and litter-free.

I thoroughly enjoyed it and took a real pride in making Maghull High's exterior spotless each morning. And as a bonus, I was allowed to use the incinerator too - a comfort in the cool morning air.

Anyway, since rejoining local newspapers I suppose I sort of 'adopted' my local school and have delighted to see it grow in stature from being regarded as probably bottom of the league of secondary schools in Maghull to one of high national status.

Now I am three-quarters of the way through my self-imposed two-day isolation and in truth feeling a good bit better, which is just as well because if I don't emerge from hibernation tomorrow the paper won't receive this column and you won't be able to read it.

Bad news indeed. But worse, if I do not get about tomorrow I will run out of puds for my dinner, as well as the vital green vegetables for the main course and the goats' milk which I believe is thought better for your tummy than the plain old cow variety.

Also, the dogs are I fear getting bored with me moping and coughing around the place - though I'm afraid Tina (who is moulting) will find a revitalised me ready with the dog brush, which she hates.

Cinders finished her moult while on holiday but she loves being brushed and will take any amount of grooming. In fact, she seems to take enjoyment out of just about every aspect of her frantic life.

I seem to have strayed quite a way from schools, though the then Tina did accompany me occasionally when I was cleaning outside the school.

I'll tell you what my few months of school cleaning did do for me though. It banished any stupid thoughts I may have harboured about manual workers being somehow inferior to those in office jobs, and it made me realise that Cinders might just have something - you can take pleasure from some of the most unlikely things.

Ormskirk duo target pro-am trophy glory

Report by **Henry James**

A FORMER hockey player who only took up golf four years ago is all set to tee off with a chance to win a prestigious pro-am event.

Ormskirk Golf Club member Pat Johnson will partner professional Ali Gray in the final of the WPGA Lombard Trophy at the Vila Sol resort in Portugal on Thursday and Friday, September 20 and 21.

Retired dentist Pat and Ali, who has featured in both previous versions of this event, will be aiming to triumph in the £7,800, Coca-Cola and Pestana Resorts-supported showpiece after winning the regional final at Dunham Forest Golf Club in Cheshire when they shot an eight under par round of 64.

And Pat reckons she has had a good preparation for the contest thanks to her home club. She said: "I have to get used to playing with people I don't know for this competition and at Ormskirk the club have started a day where you can just turn up and play nine or 18 holes and it's not set in stone who you play with. It's a bit like throwing your name into a hat for a partner.

"This encourages people to come and play with people they don't know so well or have never met.

"When we won at Dunham Forest, I'd never played in anything like that before. Now I'm trying not to be too nervous and stay calm."

The 27-handicapper has made rapid progress since taking up the sport and says her appearance in the Lombard Trophy final shows what can be achieved.

"It's still hard to believe. I am surprised but enjoying it. My husband says if I had a short game I'd be dangerous!," she joked. "As an ex-hockey player I can hit a ball hard so I'm relying on my driver. My short game needs some work but that's all down to practice."

Pat Johnson and Ali Gray from Ormskirk Golf Club after winning the WPGA Lombard regional final. Photo by Getty Images

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County Labour group slams plan for rail review

PLANS by the Government for a rail review following months of disruption for train commuters in the North West have been criticised by the Labour group on Lancashire County Council.

They fear the proposed review will not go far enough and are calling for urgent action instead.

Prime Minister Theresa May has called for a fundamental review of the rail franchising system.

However, Labour Group say there is no clear substance, time scale or structure to the review or any form of public consultation regarding the future of rail services.

In response to reports of Mrs May's plans for a review of the franchising system, County Councillor Erica Lewis, Labour's shadow cabinet member for highways and transport on the council, said: "This year has been one of ongoing chaos for rail passengers in Lancashire.

"We need urgent action, not a review that will likely not report until 2019. Kicking the problem down the tracks doesn't help those of us who have our commutes disrupted, are forced to make alternate travels plans, or in the worst cases have lost jobs and opportunities because of chaos on our railways.

Alternative

"The last review in 2013 decided the franchise system was 'not fundamentally flawed' but how many times does it have to fail before the Government acknowledges what passengers know - the system as it is doesn't work.

"Labour has a clear alternative plan - to return the railways to public ownership.

"Lancashire Labour continues to call for Transport for the North to be given the powers to cancel train franchises in the north immediately, and in the long term to manage train services so that trains in the north respond to local needs rather than Westminster convenience."

County Councillor Erica Lewis, Labour's shadow cabinet member for highways and transport.

Association's final lecture on wartime recollections

THE West Lancashire World War 1 Anniversary Association will bring its commemoration of the 1914-18 war to a close with a final lecture on Friday, October 5.

The association was founded four years ago by members of various history societies in the borough to commemorate the events of the war and to remember both the local people who fought and died and the effect it had on their families at home.

During the last four years the association has held a programme of 22 public lectures on various aspects of the war.

The last lecture on October 5 will be given by Richard Houghton and is entitled The Last Hundred Days Before The Armistice.

This will take place at Ormskirk Library in Burscough Street starting at 5.45pm. The event is free and doors will open at 5.30pm.

Cabinet updates policy on tourist site road signs

LANCASHIRE County Council has updated its policy on the use of brown signs to help people find popular tourist and leisure destinations.

The council's cabinet agreed the new criteria to be used when deciding applications for the signs, which has been updated to meet the most recent guidance from the Department for Transport.

The policy covers the rules about the types of destination that can be eligible for a brown sign and how they can be used. The signs play an important role in helping to direct people to tourist and leisure facilities but their use is strictly limited to keep motorists' attention on the road and avoid cluttering roadsides with too much information.

The signs are paid for by the tourist or leisure facility that makes the application. Existing signs are unaffected by the new policy.

Important

County Councillor Keith Iddon, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "We have a duty to make our roads as safe and easy to use as possible, and the brown signs with white writing used to direct people to tourism and leisure destinations are one of the tools we can use.

"Tourism is very important to Lancashire's economy and these signs are a way of guiding visitors along the most appropriate route, and helping them get safely where they want to go.

"They're particularly useful when the destination is off a main route and may otherwise be hard to find using existing directional signage.

"Our new policy clearly sets out the rules for using these signs and should make it easier for potential applicants to understand them in future."

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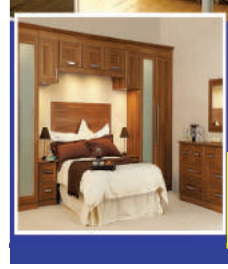

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Tina celebrates 25 years of guiding Slimming World members to healthier lives

Tina Whewell

A SLIMMING World consultant who has helped countless people to achieve their personal targets over the years is celebrating a milestone of her own.

Report by **Henry James**

Tina Whewell has been running Slimming World groups in Ormskirk for 25 years, inspiring thousands in the local community to start losing weight and improve their health.

She opened her first group in September 1993 and is a multi award-winning consultant.

Tina said: "Lots of people want to lose weight but they don't know how or where to turn for help. Often they have tried losing weight before, either on their own or by following other diets, without success.

"This leaves people thinking that they can't do it, that they'll never succeed but at Slimming World they really can take control of their weight once and for all.

"I know from my own experience that it can be nerve-wracking to walk into a group for the first time but I can assure people that there's no judgement, just respect and care. Every single person in the room has been there themselves, everyone understands exactly how it feels.

"I've made some great friends in the last 25 years and had some amazing results. We have a member in group at the moment who has transformed herself by losing an incredible 10st 8lb in just 18 months."

Bank worker caught drink-driving after moving car to avoid a parking ticket

A BANK worker was caught drink-driving after moving his car to avoid getting a parking ticket.

Alexander McSweeney, 20, of Whittle Drive, Ormskirk pleaded guilty to driving with 67 micrograms of alcohol per 100ml of breath when he appeared at Sefton Magistrates Court. The legal limit is 35mcg/100ml.

The court heard that police officers were on mobile patrol in Southport on August 19 when they saw McSweeney get into a Vauxhall Corsa and drive out of the Iceland car park on King Street.

"He smells strongly of alcohol when approached by officers," prosecutor Rachel Chandler said, "and he admits that he has been drinking."

Miss Chandler said that McSweeney had no cautions, reprimands or convictions on his record.

Solicitor David Kilty said that McSweeney works in Wavertree, Liverpool, for a high street bank and the inevitable driving ban would add an extra two hours to his daily commute to and from work.

Saying that he was very remorseful, he said that McSweeney had been out with friends in Southport.

"He was moving his car from Iceland's car park after he was told by a friend that if he left it he would get a ticket. He was going to move it and go back and join his friends. But, of course, he had more to drink than he had thought. It was a moment of madness that he deeply regrets. I am sure that you will never see him before these courts again."

The magistrates fined him £275, banned him from driving for 17 months and ordered that he pay £115 in costs and victim surcharge.

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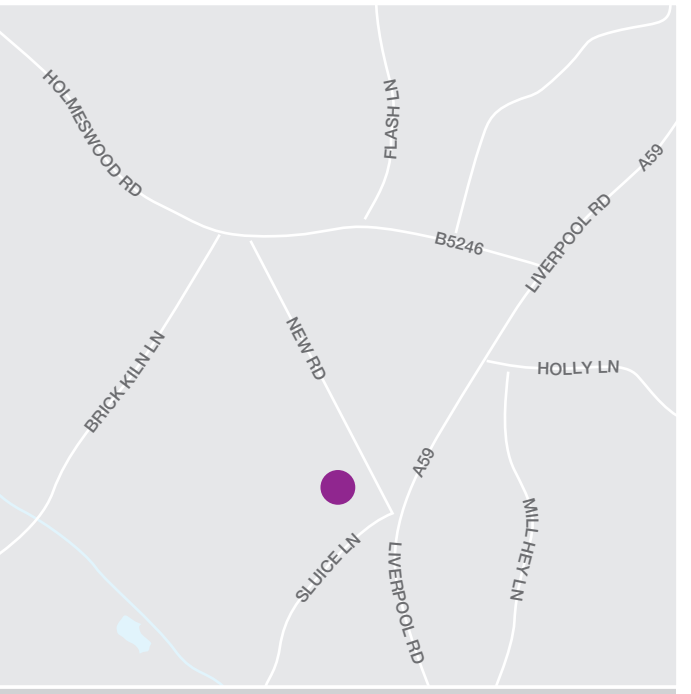

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Aquarelle Guitar Quartet performing in Skelmersdale Concourse shopping centre last week.

Quartet tour pop-up shows in shopping centres in borough

AQUARELLE Guitar Quartet have been touring 'pop-up' performances in shopping malls and supermarkets in Wigan, Skelmersdale, Chorley and Burscough to announce the opening of Parbold Douglas Music's 2018-19 season.

The Aquarelle Guitar Quartet will perform in the Auditorium in the Village Hall, Parbold this Saturday, September 22 at 7.45 pm.

From their roots at the Royal College of Music Manchester more than a decade ago, the Aquarelle Quartet is now acknowledged as one of Britain's leading music groups.

These four classical guitarists (Michael Baker, Vasilis Bessas, James Jervis and Rory Russell) are praised as a dynamic and innovative quartet that is known for their extraordinary ensemble in performance.

Aquarelle's original arrangements of music from a wide range of styles, periods and cultures is a feature of their performances.

Their Parbold programme draws on music from four continents and a host of styles and genres, featuring many of the group's most popular performance pieces, in what the Gramophone calls their "blend of high-octane virtuosity, relaxed lyricism, tonal richness and perfection of ensemble.

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Acts returning with memories of Merseyside

P.J.Proby at Kingsway Club with Pete James (guitar on right) and Frank Johns (keyboard) IN 1990

Report by **Ron Ellis**

THE last ever Sixties Gold Tour arrives at Southport Theatre on Wednesday, October 3 and on top of the bill are three acts with special memories of Southport and Merseyside.

Sixties superstar, ponytailed P.J. Proby, was the country's biggest attraction in 1965 before he split his trousers at the Croydon Empire after which his career nosedived.

I first saw him at The Liverpool Empire on a Sunday night show when the curtain came down at 10.30pm prompt. Proby, though, carried on singing and even after the sound had been switched off he crawled under the ensuing safety curtain to finish his number to the delight of screaming fans.

I met him in London, some time after the Croydon incident, and we stayed in touch over the years. He played the Southport Floral Hall a couple of times, made an album with Savoy Records in Manchester and then in 1989, he made a CD featuring a song I had written for him called Hot California Nights with Kenny Parry of The Merseybeats on guitar and Frank Johns, of Bootle-based Bilbo Baggins Band, on keyboards.

To launch the CD, Liverpool club owner, Roy Adams, put P.J. on his Kingsway Club on Southport Promenade. The band was augmented by Southport guitarist, Pete James (a.k.a. Eddie Vincent) on lead guitar.

Hot California Nights was later recorded by the Womersley Brothers, Barry and Don. Barry Womersley was in Southport's Rhythm'n'Blues Inc. who had a hit with Louie Louie in 1964 and who later joined Inner Sleeve, winners of T.V.'s Opportunity Knocks.

By the early 90's, Proby was back on top with his first hit for 30 years, Yesterday Has Gone, featuring Southport hitmaker, Marc Almond, and he was soon touring on the theatre circuit, starring in a number of nationwide shows promoted by Jack Good and Bill Kenwright, before joining the Sixties Gold tours. I spoke to him at his home in the Cotswolds and he said he is looking forward to being back in Southport again.

Both The Searchers and The Merseybeats too have made regular visits to Southport over the years, appearing at the Kingsway Club, The Floral Hall and Southport Theatre.

The Searchers started out in 1960 playing mainly on the Northern side of Liverpool. John McNally, who lives in Blundellsands, remembers playing at Litherland Town Hall and Aintree Institute for impresario, Brian Kelly. He said: "Brian ran Alpha Sound in Waterloo and supplied music equipment to many local bands. We also played St. John's Hall in Bootle where Dave Forshaw from Litherland ran the dances."

The Merseybeats too worked for Brian Kelly and Dave Forshaw at those same venues. Founder member, Billy Kinsley, who lives in Thornton said: "Dave was just fourteen and a half when he first started the gigs at St. John's. He had The Beatles on the bill twice, and he is still running his agency today, well over half a century later."

Billy later formed Liverpool Express in the 1970's, with whom he had several worldwide hits and, although back with The Merseybeats, he still does occasional gigs with them today.

All three acts you can see live onstage at Southport Theatre on Wednesday, October 3 on the final Sixties Gold Tour.

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BOYS CLOTHES Aged 12 years joggers, t-shirts, tops etc. 33 items all from Next. Excellent condition £20 0151 9321725

WALKING SHOES suede, womens, light brown, waterproof, size 5, never worn, cost £109, price £30 07972 165012

LADIES DRESSES 2 M&S size 12, both pink and black £20. Next black trouser suit, satin lapel, 14 reg, £30 07982 151431

DOC MARTIN Made in England Black Men's Vintage Doc Martin Boots size 10 never been worn £100 07874884206

GIRLS DRESS Yellow , white, lemon pattern girls NEXT dress, aged 12, excellent condition. £5 07553954226

KENZO TSHIRT Kenzo girls t shirt, aged 16 but small fitting. Pale patchwork design. Excellent condition. £5 07553954226

HURACHE TRAINERS Nike , Hurache Trainers, purple, blue, grey , size 6, excellent condition. £10.00 07553954226

HUGO BOSS Never worn, labels still on, navy polo shirt. Mens size small. Bought wrong size in error. £45 07553954226

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LADIES COAT Marks & Spencers size 20 coat. Light green leaves. Worn once, like new, in excellent condition. Bargain £20 01704220356

LADIES SHOES Beautiful Jacques Vert special occasion shoes. Silver-grey, low heel, size 5. Unworn and boxed. £25. Aughton. 07925599600

LEATHER COAT Ladies Dark Brown full length coat with drop waist detail on back Size 12 Excellent condition. £60 0151 9321725

BRIDESMAID DRESSES Two Coral 3/4 length dresses with plait detail around neckline. Excellent condition. £30 each 0151 9321725

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CARVELA BOOTS Ladies Carvela ankle boots. Size 4. Brand new in original box with receipt for £150. Tan coloured. Accept £45 01704577481

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LADIES DRESSES Three new Per Una and one Twiggy dresses, also four pair of trousers all size 10 to 12. from £12 each 07387439004

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GIRLS JUMPSUIT Cream/off white jumpsuit, fits age 13- 15, lace tied round neck , tie through waist, Missy brand. Photo available. £10.00 07553954226

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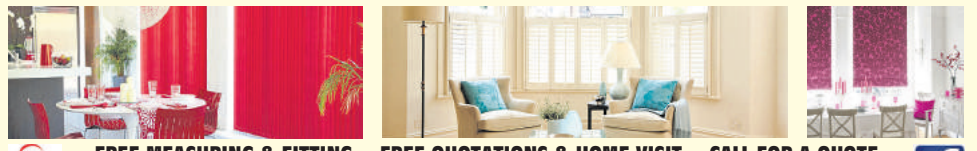
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BIRTHDAYS

GEORGE THOMPSON

20/09/1958

Happy 60th Birthday

Love from Mariah,

Katrina and Susan

xxx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RIMMER JANET ANNE

Lindon, Michelle & Mike would like to thank their wonderful friends and family for their heartfelt messages of support which brightened our darkest hours and to the overwhelming congregation who joined us from far flung places to celebrate her life, we are truly humbled by you all. Thank you also to Sally at MLS Funeral Directors for their thoughtful and considerate assistance in guiding us through the process and to Rev Jane Morgan MBE for conducting the most fitting of services for Jan.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

DOYLE CHRISTOPHER DENHAM

19th September 1956

Happy Birthday in Heaven
Together in the same old way
Would be my dearest wish today
Love Dad
X

DOYLE CHRISTOPHER DENHAM

19th September 1956

Birthdays in Heaven
Decorations of Gold
Where the years come and go
And you never grow old

Where you celebrate with angels
And past family there
With no illness in sight
Just Love everywhere

So we dont need to worry
How your Birthday was spent
Because you're safe in Heaven
And our wishes were sent

Though we know you are safe
Even though you're away
We love and miss you
Even more today

Broken Hearted Wife and Sons

XXX

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DEATHS

DICKINSON, GEORGE EDWARD (TED)

13th September 2018

Peacefully in hospital aged 81 years of Scarisbrick.

The dearly loved Husband of Dorothy, loving Dad of Lesley, Alison and Janet and devoted Grandad to all his Grand and Great Grandchildren. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 24th September 2018 at 10:45am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Rainbow House. Family request that no black is to be worn.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel:- 01695 722122/720012

RILEY DEREK PAUL (DES)

Passed away on 8th September 2018. Aged 62 years of Ormskirk

Dear Husband of the late June, much Loved Dad of Neil, Carl and Emma, loving Grandad and Brother, loved and missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service and Interment at St.Annes R.C Church, Ormskirk, on Friday 21st September 2018 at 12 noon. Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tele. 01695 424888.

DEATHS

ROBERTS DAVID HUGH

13th September 2018

Passed away peacefully in hospital, aged 79 years, of Lathom

Devoted Husband of Sheila, Dearly loved Dad of Susan, Neil, Graham, Malcolm and Hilary, and much loved by his 10 Grandchildren. For Funeral arrangements and further enquiries please contact Sally Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, tele: 01695 424888.

LEATHERBARROW STANLEY

Passed away 5th September 2018 at home

Husband to Linda, Dad to Kathy and Louise. Grandad to Dylan, Chloe, Lucy & Grace. Stanley will be dearly missed by his family and all who knew him. Funeral Service to take place on Wednesday, 26th September 2018 at West Lancashire Crematorium at 1pm. Family flowers only however donations are being collected in fond memory of Stanley for British Heart Foundation and Queenscourt Hospice.

Further Enquiries to;
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DEATHS

SUMNER EILEEN

10th September 2018

Aged 92 years

Devoted Mum, loving Nan, Great Gran and caring Sister. Words can not express our sadness at our loss but we rest in the knowledge that she is with her Lord and Saviour. She will always be our inspiration and shining star, shining even brighter now.
"A life lived to the full". Funeral service at Christ Church Aughton, on Thursday 20th September 12:30pm. Family flowers only, Donations if so desired to Fernhill Heath Baptist Church for missionary work in Uganda. Donations and further enquires please to MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tele. 01695 424888.

MOORE BARBARA

13th September 2018

Aged 104 years

Died peacefully. Loving Wife of the late Dudley F. Moore. Much loved Mum of David, Nigel, Charlotte and the late Penelope. Cherished Grandma and Great Grandma to all of her Grandchildren. Barbara will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 9th October at 12:40pm. Family flowers only please. Donations are being collected for Guide Dogs for The Blind and S.S.A.F.A. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

RILEY DEREK (DES)

Died 8th September 2018

Put your arms around him Lord & Kiss His Smiling Face.
For He is vey special & can never be replaced

Broken hearted Sister Barbara, Les & Family

CARROLL THOMAS PATRICK

on 30th August 2018
Suddenly at home
Aged 68 years

Beloved Husband of Margaret, devoted Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Will be sadly missed and loved by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Friday 21st September at 12.15pm. The family request that no black is to be worn. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Sklemersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868.

SWIFT LILLIAN EDITH

10th September 2018

Peacefully aged 83 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved wife of the late Clifford, loving Mum of Sandra, dear Mother in Law of Stefan, devoted Nan of Chris and Great Nan to Amy and Sophie. Funeral Service and Interment at St Michael and All Angels Church, Dalton on Wednesday 19th September at 11:30am. Family flowers only, donations if desired for North West Cancer Research or British Heart Foundation. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co, Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel:- 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

PFEIFFER HELEN

11th September 2018
Aged 65 years
Peacefully at Woodlands Hospice

Dr Ulrich Pfeiffer, Thomas and Danielle Pfeiffer with Emilia and Maximilian, Oliver and Stephanie Pfeiffer. The funeral will take place at St. Faith's Church Waterloo on Monday 24th September at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations to Woodlands Hospice gratefully received on www.justgiving/fundraising/helenpfeiffer or c/o H Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE. Tel: 0151 9244805. Please make use of Gift Aid.

BRITTON JOAN

9th September 2018
Aged 60

Our Joan.
As kids we lived together, we fought, we laughed, we cried, We did not always show the love, we all had inside.
We shared our dreams, and plans, and some secrets too. All the memories we share, is what bonds us now to you.
We grew to find we have a love that is very strong today, and always true.
It's a love shared by our family that will never fade away.
You were our Mother, Daughter and Sister, by nature of birth.
We couldn't have chosen a better one.
Be at peace now.
Your devastated family.

HIGGINS KEVIN (Thomas)

11th September 2018
Aged 89 years

Greatly loved and missed by Wife Mary, by his children, Grandchildren and large extended family. Requiem mass at Our Lady of Compassion Church, Formby on Friday 21st September at 12.00 followed by cremation at Thornton crematorium. Strictly no flowers. Donations to Cancer Research UK or CAFOD will be gratefully recieved c/o Coyne Bros, 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby, L37 3PE. Tel: 01704 873 899

DEATHS

MORRIS JOAN ELIZABETH

22.04.29 – 12.09.18
Passed away quietly with family at home

It is with deepest sorrow and relief that sons, Eric and Barry, announce the peaceful and pain free passing of their beloved Mum, devoted wife to Bob (deceased); Mother-In-Law to Jean and Sharon, loving Nana to Ceri, Eric and Jack, Grandma to Ted and Emily; proud Great Nana to Faye, Elli and Abby following a sixteen week brave battle after a fall at home. Joan, and Sister Stella, were Daughters of William Ruben and Lilian Parker, who hailed from Knotty Ash, Liverpool.
A Funeral Service of song and music to celebrate her life, followed by Committal, will be held at Southport Crematorium, on Tuesday 25 September at 2pm. Family flowers only, Donations to charity, as yet undecided, are most welcome. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118

CHARNLEY JAMES

After a long illness peacefully in hospital on 9th September 2018
Aged 65 years

A much loved Husband of Jean. A much loved Dad of Kathy and Stephen. Dear Father-in-law of Alan and Helen. Loving Grandpa of Emily, Joe, James, George and Henry. Dear Brother of John. Jim will be sadly missed by all his family, friends and all who knew him. Funeral Service will take place at St John the Baptist Church, Burscough on Thursday 20th September 2018 at 12.30pm followed by interment in the Churchyard. Family flowers only by request please but the family are receiving donations for Cancer Research UK and The Medical Day Unit at Southport Hospital. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

IN MEMORIAM

MACHIN
KARL
23rd September 2017

One year on and you are loved and missed every day.
Jill, Mike, Jessica and Tom xxxx

MCCULLEY
SARAH
20th September 2005

A beautiful memory
Dearer than Gold
Whose worth can never be told
Theres a place in my Heart that no one can fill
I miss you Sadie and always will.

Loving Husband Ray X

MCCULLEY
SARAH
20th September 2005

May the winds of Heaven blow softly
And whisper in your Ear
How much we miss you Nanna
And wish that you were here
Love
Kelly,Liam and Layton XXX

BALL
COLIN
GEOFFREY
Who passed away 4 years ago
23rd September 2014

Time slips by and life goes on,
But from our hearts you're never gone,
We think about you always,
We Talk about you too,
We have so may memories
but we wish we still had you.

Loved and Remembered Always
Deborah
Jasmine and Elliot
XXX

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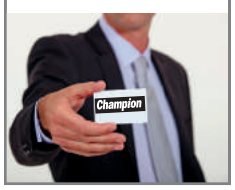

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0651/FUL Conversion of the vacant Parish Centre for St Elizabeth's Church into five two and three bedroom flats at St Elizabeths Parish Centre, 10 Hall Road, Scarisbrick.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/0693/FUL Application for the removal of Condition no. 9 of planning reference number: 2015/1095/COU at The Courtyard, 94 Church Road, Tarleton.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/0835/OUT Employment development comprising B2 & B8 uses including ancillary office accommodation together with associated ancillary infrastructure at Land To The South Of, Stopgate Lane, Simonswood.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

2018/0904/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new dwelling and associated landscaping at 6 Thornhill, Aughton.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/0943/LBC Listed Building Consent - Extension of lock chamber ladder on the towpath side. Replacement of bottom gates at Canal Lock Approx 50M N Of Runnel Brow Bridge, Carr Lane, Lathom.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/0947/FUL Erection of detached garage at 4 Clyffes Farm Close, Scarisbrick.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI — Dated: 19th September 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration — PDNOT1011

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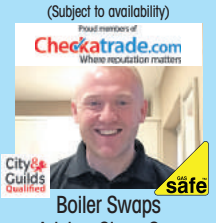

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Nigel Mansell definitely won't approve of you driving this close to the car in front

Two seconds is a surprisingly useful measurement...

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TWO seconds. It might not seem that long as increments of time go but it's a surprisingly useful way of measuring things.

It is, for instance, how far I'll get into each episode of *Bodyguard* before I'm completely and utterly lost trying to work out what's going on.

It's also roughly how long I can listen to any Black Eyed Peas song before wishing for a pair of noise-cancelling headphones. It's also, if Tesla's own claims are to be believed, how long its new Roadster will take to thrust you to 60mph from a standstill.

But it's also a short space of time I see being routinely ignored every time I hop into the car and go to work – yes, extra petrolhead geek points if you already knew that it's the time you're supposed to leave between your own car and whoever's up front.

The road safety mantra's the same regardless of whether you're pursuing a tractor or the new TVR – only a fool breaks the two-second rule.

Which is why I'm glad that the man who briefly made moustaches cool in the early 1990s, Nigel Mansell, is giving his backing to a new campaign to stop people tailgating.

The 1992 Formula One world champion reckons it's an 'utterly deplorable habit' that does precisely zilch to make you a better driver.

I'm glad that he's involved, because none of my more radical solutions would've got past the Department for Transport's sense checkers.

My initial idea of having snipers on motorway bridges with their crosshairs trained on tailgaters obviously wouldn't have worked – if only because every time someone cuts into your safe space, they briefly make *you* the tailgater until you hit the brakes, and the last thing you'd want in that tense moment is a bored ex-squaddie shooting out your front tyres.

Then I thought about having some sort of bendy metal pole that shoots out from your rear bumper, and extends and retracts according to your speed, so its length always corresponds to that safe two-second gap.

It'd be rigged up to some highly charged battery, so that any German saloons that dare venture too close are briefly treated to 50,000 volts.

However, I can't see either of these ideas making into commuting reality, so how about treating the 'utterly deplorable habit' the same way the Government already does with smoking?

It's simple – every car is fitted with a TV screen embedded in its bootlid and a rear-facing radar scanner, not unlike the ones already used for parking sensors. Get too close and the screen would show you images of cars that have totalled by tailgaters – and Mr Impatient Sales Rep backs off.

If it works with cigarette packets, why can't it work with Ford Fiestas?

Failing that, how about some sort of front-mounted radar sensor that automatically shuts the throttle if you edge too close?

I suspect roughly none of these ideas will make it even close to reality, but as someone who's had a car rear-ended and written off by a BMW-driving sales rep you can probably understand my frustration with impatient clots who drive too closely.

Nigel Mansell is definitely a step in the right direction, though.

If he can make moustaches cool, who knows what he can do for road safety?

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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2017 (66) TOYOTA VERSO 1.6 ICON, 7 SEATER, metallic red, reversing camera, 13,000 miles... **£13,195**

2015 (15) FORD FOCUS 1.0 TITANIUM ECOBOOST 125, sat nav, metallic blue, 17,000 miles **£10,895**
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Nissan has treated its Juke to some new visual tweaks and a better sound system

NISSAN has treated its Juke to some visual tweaks, a better sound system and new colours and optional extras.

The five-door crossover (*pictured, right*) has a newfront grille, headlights, fog lamps and new wheels, and it's now available in the new Vivid Blue and Chestnut Bronze shades.

Inside it's fitted with a more powerful BOSE stereo, and there are now two new personalisation packs on the options list.

It's available to order now, with prices starting at £15,505.

Fiat 500's sportier cousin to hit market

THE Fiat 500's sportier cousin is about to hit showrooms across the North West.

Abarth's 595 is being offered as both as a hatchback or a cabriolet, with the choice of four trim levels.

The turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol engine is also available in four different states of tune.

The most powerful sends 180bhp to the front wheels, and there's an active sports exhaust to help you enjoy it to the full.

Prices for this range are starting at £15,690.

I.J.D CARS TARLETON

CAR OF THE WEEK
12 CITROEN C3 1.4 DIESEL 5DR, blue, 1 owner, only 14,000 miles..... **£5495**

64 KIA SPORTAGE ISG3, white, leather, nav, pan roof 23,000 miles **£12495**
60 JAGUAR XF 3LTR DIESEL AUTO, in black with leather & sat nav..... **£6950**
55 MERCEDES SLK 350 CONVERTIBLE, 1 owner, full Merc history, silver with leather, command sat nav and full spec..... **£6250**
11 NISSAN JUKE in grey, leather, full spec..... **£5695**
58 MERCEDES E220 CDI, Executive auto, black, leather, upgraded alloys..... **£5495**
55 BMW X5 3.0 TD SPORT AUTO, silver, black leather, panoramic roof, FSH **£5250**
60 SEAT EXEO 2.0 TDI SALOON, silver, FSH..... **£4695**
11 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXI 5DR, silver, alloys **£4495**
11 PEUGEOT 207 ESTATE STATION WAGON TD, in blue metallic..... **£3695**
60 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 SE, manual, in silver/gold **£3495**
08 NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA DIESEL, in silver, leather, panoramic roof, FSH..... **£3495**
61 HYUNDAI I10 5DR, in silver, only 50,000 miles..... **£3395**
59 ALFA ROMEO MITO LUSSO 3-dr. black metallic, 61k **£3295**
07 HONDA CIVIC TYPE S GT 1.8 3DR, IN BLUE..... **£3250**
10 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 PURE DRIVE, black..... **£2995**
10 FORD FIESTA 1.2 ZETEC 5DR, in red **£2995**
04 KIA SORENTO 2.5 TD MANUAL, silver, leather, FSH **£2795**
53 AUDI TT COUPE, manual, silver/blue with cream leather **£2750**
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR, in silver **£2695**

VANS
08 DISCOVERY 3 2.7 DIESEL, manual, commercial, rear seats, in silver **£8995**
60 CITROEN DISPATCH LWB VAN side doors, 3 seats, 79k miles..... **NO VAT £4495**
05 RENAULT KANGOO VAN, in white, 74,000 miles ..... **NO VAT £1495**
63 VW AMAROK HIGHLINE PICKUP, full spec, nav, leather..... **£12450+VAT**
52 CITROEN DISPATCH VAN..... **NO VAT £795**
02 CITROEN DISPATCH VAN..... **NO VAT £795**

10 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 5DR, in silver/ blue **£2550**
08 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-DR, in silver **£2495**
99 MERCEDES SLK 230 COMPRESSER COUPE AUTO, silver, leather seats **£2495**
04 TOYOTA RAV 4 XTS, blue, manual, alloys, sunroof **£2495**
11 CHEVROLET SPARK, 1.2 in silver..... **£2495**
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXI 16V 3DR, silver, 42,000 miles **£2250**
54 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1.8 3DR, silver, 66,000 miles **£1995**
57 MAZDA 5 2.0 DIESEL SALOON, in blue..... **£1995**
55 VOLVO V50 DIESEL ESTATE, grey metallic, full leather..... **£1995**
05 VW GOLF 2.0 GTTDI SPORT 6SPD 3DR, Silver **£1995**
55 VOLVO V50 T DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 in blue..... **£1695**
02 HONDA CIVIC, FSH, 5DR **£1595**
55 FORD FOCUS 1.6 DIESEL 5DR, manual, in light blue metallic..... **£1595**

AUTOMATICS
61 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDI ZETEC AUTO..... **£5495**
56 VW JETTA 1.9 DIESEL AUTO, saloon, silver, 79,000 miles..... **£2495**
07 PEUGEOT 207 AUTO, black, 60,00 miles **£2295**

7 SEATERS
61 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 SRi 7 seater, in black **£2795**
55 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TD DESIGN, silver, 7 seats **£2495**
54 VW SHARAN SE TDI DIESEL 5DR, grey, 7 seater **£1795**

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07 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 HDI LOOK 5DR, in black diesel **1450**
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04 FORD FIESTA 5DR, light blue..... **£1295**
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04 FORD STREET KA CABRIOLET 2DR, blue, leather..... **£1295**
55 FORD KA 1.3 3DR, red 56,000 miles..... **£1250**
02 HONDA CIVIC 1.4 5DR, in silver..... **£995**
52 VOLVO ESTATE V70 2.4 MANUAL, metallic red, leather. **£995**
52 FORD KA, silver, only 44,000 miles, silver, full MoT.... **£995**
55 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 5DR, black..... **£995**
52 FORD KA, in silver, full mot, complete new clutch, only ..... 42,000 miles..... **£995**
04 VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 1.2, in silver, 61,000 miles... **£995**
W VOLVO S40 1.6 PETROL S MODEL, in red..... **£795**
51 HYUNDAI 1.0 AMICA 5DR, 46,000 miles, blue metallic..... **£795**
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W RENAULT CLIO 1.2 3DR, blue..... **£500**

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Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
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47 Monthly Payments	£159.00
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Interest Charges	£1,065.93
Annual Mileage	10,000
Total Amount Payable	£13,913.00
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Viva 1.0 SE 73PS A/C 5dr

£149 per month | **£299 deposit** | **£500 minimum part ex**

Cash Price	£10,249.31
Customer Deposit	£299.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£9,450.31
47 Monthly Payments	£149.00
Optional Final Payment	£3,396.00
Interest Charges	£994.75
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£11,244.06
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Corsa Energy 1.4 75PS A/C 5dr

£169 per month | **£169 deposit** | **£500 minimum part ex**

Cash Price	£13,768.57
Customer Deposit	£169.00
Deposit Allowance	£2,100.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£10,999.57
47 Monthly Payments	£169.00
Optional Final Payment	£4,235.00
Interest Charges	£1,178.43
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£14,947.00
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Adam 1.2i Energised

£199 per month | **£499 deposit** | **£500 minimum part ex**

Cash Price	£14,600.00
Customer Deposit	£499.00
Deposit Allowance	£1,000.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£12,601.00
47 Monthly Payments	£199.00
Optional Final Payment	£4,553.00
Interest Charges	£1,328.03
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£15,928.03
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Crossland X 1.2 82PS SE

£209 per month | **£209 deposit** | **£500 minimum part ex**

Cash Price	£15,570.39
Customer Deposit	£209.00
Deposit Allowance	£600.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£14,261.39
47 Monthly Payments	£209.98
Optional Final Payment	£5,955.00
Interest Charges	£1,562.67
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£17,133.06
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Astra 1.0 ecoTEC SRi 5dr

£229 per month | **£229 deposit** | **£500 minimum part ex**

Cash Price	£19,286.08
Customer Deposit	£229.00
Deposit Allowance	£3,400.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£15,157.08
47 Monthly Payments	£229.00
Optional Final Payment	£6,033.00
Interest Charges	£1,638.92
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£20,925.00
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Mokka X ecoTEC Active 1.4T

£239 per month | **£239 deposit** | **£500 minimum part ex**

Cash Price	£19,989.17
Customer Deposit	£239.00
Deposit Allowance	£3,000.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£16,250.17
47 Monthly Payments	£239.00
Optional Final Payment	£6,749.00
Interest Charges	£1,777.89
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£21,767.06
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Grandland X 1.2T SE

£249 per month | **£249 deposit** | **£500 minimum part ex**

Cash Price	£21,336.43
Customer Deposit	£249.00
Deposit Allowance	£1,700.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£18,887.43
47 Monthly Payments	£249.00
Optional Final Payment	£9,364.00
Interest Charges	£2,179.57
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£23,516.00
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Insignia Grand Sport 1.5T Design

£259 per month | **£259 deposit** | **£500 minimum part ex**

Cash Price	£18,707.38
Customer Deposit	£259.00
Deposit Allowance	£750.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£17,198.38
47 Monthly Payments	£259.00
Optional Final Payment	£6,888.00
Interest Charges	£1,862.62
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£20,570.00
APR Representative	3.9%

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11 Reg Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTI Elite Auto
• Myth Green • 48684 Miles

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• Grey • 32171 Miles

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65 Reg Renault Twingo Dynamique Energy T
• Tahoe Blue • 33268 Miles

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64 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.4i VVT 100PS SRI
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Ormksirk end season as runners-up but 65 points behind champs Northern

THE 2018 Liverpool & District Cricket Competition drew to a close with Northern, Southport & Birkdale and Old Xaverians duly crowned champions of the top three divisions, writes Glenn Wallworth.

Ormskirk finished 65 points adrift in second place as they ended with a home draw against Rainhill.

The visitors chose to bat and thanks to a century from Tyler McGladdery 124 (15x4 & 3x6) and an unbeaten 34 from James Clarke were able to declare on 220-4 off 50 overs. In reply, George Lavelle top scored with 35 as the hosts finished on 142-6 with Ryan Williams taking 3-54.

Surprisingly nobody from the league committee was on hand to present the trophy to Premier Division champions Northern who finished off their campaign with a 56 run home win against third placed Formby.

The hosts elected to bat and thanks to a third century in four innings from Liam Grey 101*, 58 from Chris Brownlow and an unbeaten 38 from Justin Snow they were able to declare 252-4.

In reply, Ben Aitchison 51 and skipper James Seward 39 top scored for the visitors who like so many other clubs this season were undone by the spin of Tom Sephton who took his season's league wicket tally to 93 with 8-61 which included a hat-trick as Formby were dismissed for 196.

In the First Division, relegated Burscough finished off their campaign with a three wicket defeat at home against Wavertree, the hosts decided to bat first and thanks to runs from Alan Murray 81, Trevor Webster 33 and Lee Berrie 27 managed to post 221 up on the board with Theo O'Brien taking a hat trick in his 3-29. In reply, skipper Josh Birch hit a century 117 (14x5 5x6) and Tom Oughterson an unbeaten 30* as the visitors wrapped up victory on 222-7.

Southport & Birkdale finally clinched the First Division title after hammering Fleetwood Hesketh by nine wickets at Sea Cop.

The hosts chose to bat and were subsequently dismantled for just 43 by a fine spell of bowling from seamer Andy Warhurst whose career best return of 8-24 included a hat trick.

In reply, two unbeaten knocks from Adam Phillips 21* and Isaac Lea 22* (including winning six) took S&B to victory on 49-1 to kickstart a heavy night of celebrations back at Trafalgar Road.

Well that wraps up the league reports for this season. Thanks to all the clubs and individuals who've helped me out with information over the season, if any clubs sign or lose any players to other clubs over the winter months please get in touch and I'll do a couple of round ups over the close season.

Over the next fortnight I will be bringing you the league statistics from the eleven local clubs we cover, including those in the runs, wickets, dismissals behind the stumps and catches in the outfield as well as the popular (unless your name appears in it) most ducks.

Back to back home games offers chance for much-needed victory

SKELMERSDALE United have the first of an Evo-Stik Division One West home double on Saturday when they entertain Newcastle Town for the first time since their days in the North-West Counties League.

This is then followed by a game on Tuesday, September 25 when Colwyn Bay travel over for another league encounter.

Skelmersdale will be in search of that vital first league success, but they will have a decent opportunity against Newcastle.

The Staffordshire based team are only five places and three points ahead of Dave Powell's team in the league table, they have won an away game but have only scored six goals this season, so they are not setting the league on fire.

Consistency has been a problem all season for Skem. Last Tuesday they went very close to picking up a point at home to unbeaten league leaders Radcliffe before losing 2-1 in a very close battle, but then they suffered a 5-1 reverse at lower mid-table Trafford on Saturday.

Next Tuesday, Colwyn Bay will arrive boasting a record of winning two out of their three away games, so will on paper pose a more serious threat. Burscough fans will be bereft of footballing activity this coming weekend as they don't now have a scheduled fixture until they travel to Padiham on Saturday, September 29.

This is because Burscough's opposition for this Saturday Ashton Athletic are away in the FA Cup at York City this weekend.

Burscough winger Matty Ward takes on an Irlam defender. Picture by Marc Taylor

Skem still in search of first win of campaign after heavy defeat

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Trafford 5
Skelmersdale United 1

SKELMERSDALE United remain without a win in seven league games after their latest defeat at the hands of Trafford.

Hopes had justifiably been high that Skelmersdale would register their first win of the season at Shawe View, having picked up their first point last week with a 0-0 draw at Glossop.

Trafford were vulnerable as they had only five more points than Skem going into the match and it was fairly even in the opening 20 minutes, with neither team carving out a decent chance and Skem looked promising.

27 minutes had gone when Trafford took the lead with the first really good strike at goal. When Dan Wilkins latched onto a poor clearance on the left near the halfway line there was no sense of serious worry.

He was then able to take the ball into the 18 yard box from where he unleashed a vicious drive across Skelmersdale goalkeeper Scott Maloney into the far corner of the net.

Straight after the break territorially it was pretty even, but Skelmersdale had the better attempts at goal. Charlie Duke saw a goal bound effort blocked then with the rebound Edgar was only denied by a superb reaction save from Cooper. This was followed by a far post header from a corner that went wide.

When the teams had been announced it was a surprise to see Trafford striker Aaron Burns on the bench, as he is well known for a his goal scoring prowess.

Sean Yeldrem scores a consolation goal for Skem. Picture by John Driscoll

In the 54th minute he was introduced as substitute and it took him precisely a minute to announce his arrival, gathering the ball on the right he cut inside and hit a powerful left-footed shot inside the far corner of the Skelmersdale goal.

Skelmersdale's confidence is low at the moment and going 2-0 down hit them hard and for the next ten minutes it was almost all Trafford, Skem only clinging on via three last gasp interventions.

Burns became creator on 64 minutes getting free down the left his ball into the goalmouth was a gift for forward Matt Bryan who converted comfortably to make it 3-0.

Bryan went on to complete his hat-trick with a 74th minute slide in at the far post and a header two minutes from time.

Skelmersdale had kept up the work rate and it was that spirit that kept the score down, but in the end they did get something to show for their efforts, Sean Yeldrem pouncing on a rebound from keeper Cooper to pull a goal back in added time.

Manager Dave Powell praised his team's first-half showing saying: "We should have come in at half-time one all, the difference was they had one maybe two chances and scored, we had two chances and didn't.

"After the break we had chances to equalise and they hit us on the break.

"Burns is a quality player, which is what we are missing at the moment. The lads have kept going and got some consolation at the end, but too late, those chances during the game we have just got to start taking them, because it is putting too much pressure on the midfield and the back four. If we can just get a few goals we can turn this around. I am still confident in the lads."

Wembley hopes dashed for Linnets after cup exit

Irlam 4
Burscough 2

BURSCOUGH'S hopes of going to Wembley ended for another year after they were knocked out of the FA Vase.

There was only two minutes gone when Irlam struck, Burscough lost possession when on the attack and the ball went to number seven Marcus Perry who played the ball into Matty Boland in the penalty area from the right the home striker firing a first-time effort into the Linnets net.

Four minutes later Burscough equalised. North-West Counties League player of the month Terry Cummings broke away down the right hand side, he played an inch perfect ball to striker Chad Whyte and the big man did what he does best.

At times Burscough were their own worst enemy. Straight from the kick off Perry was again given far too much room down the right, this time he cut inside to make it 2-2. The Linnets lead had lasted less than a minute.

Burscough were doing at least their share of attacking and in the 28th minute Ward was only denied by a superb last gasp challenge when he was bearing down on goal. Then Cummings look set to score but the referee pulled up play for a handball.

In the 31st minute Irlam made it 3-2 with another counterattack after a Burscough attack broke down, Boland romping away down the left then crossing to give Perry his second goal of the afternoon.

Both managers must have had words during the break as it was a lot tighter in the middle of the park in the second-half and chances did become scarcer as a result.

Nine minutes in Burscough got their chance to level, Cummings slipped a wonderful through ball to Whyte, only to have his moment spoiled by a terrific save from Irlam goalkeeper Lee White.

In the 70th minute Irlam hit Burscough with the killer blow and this time it was bad marking that was to blame.

Number three Joel Amando sent in a corner and home defender Karl Cassell was allowed to roam free to bag the winner from close range.

Burscough need to look at some of the basics of football. It is all well and good being highly entertaining and scoring plenty of goals, but they must cut down on the mistakes and defend better if they are to progress up the North-West Counties Premier Division table. They have the ingredients to move up the league, they need to become more streetwise if they are to do so though.

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A home is truly one's castle and over a lifetime, can prove our greatest source of expenditure. As with everything else, homes today respond to a very definite set of values in terms of décor, comfort and space usage. Our Focus on Homes intends to help you discover the latest trends, the improvements that will add the most value to your home and hopefully the best way to carry out these improvements.

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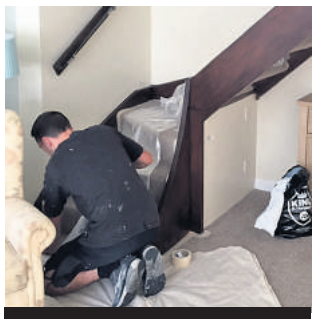

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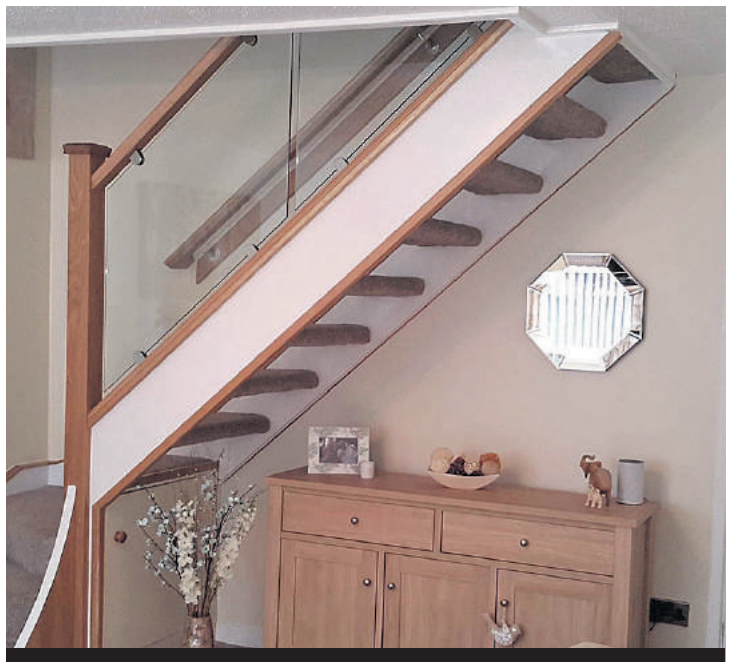

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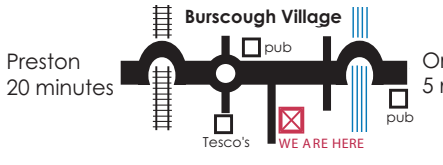

Kitchens

Whether you are looking at ripping out the old and installing a brand new kitchen, moving your kitchen to a new room or are simply looking to update and modernise the space, there are a number of ways to achieve the look you want. An important factor to consider is whether you will carry out the work yourself, or look to employ the services of one of the area's many reputable companies.

For many of us, the kitchen really is the heart of the home. Have you ever wondered why it is that family, and friends all tend to congregate here. Our kitchens are where we cook, eat, entertain and socialise, so it is important to create a space that ticks all of these boxes – and more.

For a busy family home, a fitted kitchen is a bespoke solution that offers fantastic functionality and will streamline the space enabling you to make the most of every inch. Go to any kitchen company and you will be shown a range of units in a variety of styles and sizes that can be fitted into virtually every shape and size of room imaginable. Most will offer a free design service too enabling you to visualise the different options available for your room before making a decision.

Looking for some budget kitchen ideas?

If your current kitchen is looking a little tired, you don't have to spend a fortune to give it a fresh , modern look. All it takes is a little time, effort and creativity. If your cupboards are looking a bit dated, in terms of style or colour, why not consider replacing the doors - providing the rest of the unit is still in good condition. Alternatively, a few coats of paint can refresh the look of them and both of these options are cheaper and less hassle than replacing the entire kitchen.

It's amazing how much we accumulate over the years in our homes. And this also applies to the kitchen. Set aside some time to sort through your kitchen cupboards and organise them so you have access to the things you use most. Clearing your worktops can also instantly improve the look of your kitchen and this doesn't cost you a penny.

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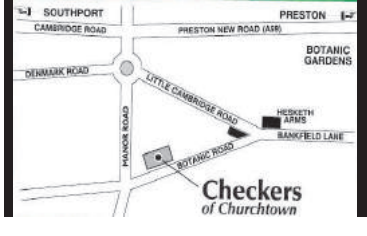

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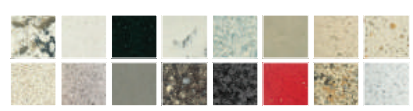

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Fires and Fireplaces

There really is nothing else that holds the appeal of an open fire. Somehow it is basic to our very appreciation of 'home' and all it stands for. In some parts of the country in fact, a fire is lit in the grate the moment a family moves into a new home, summer or winter, and often before the removers have finished their work.

Open fireplaces fell from favour in the 1960s. Grates were boarded up or taken out. Many new homes were built without chimneys or mantelpieces. The advent of universal central heating seemed to make them obsolete, and with TV becoming so important, this became the focal point in many sitting rooms.

It wasn't long before this proved a bad error of judgement from the design point of view. People who had homes without fireplaces, put false ones in. Those who owned boarded-up grates, opened them up. In smoke free areas this was not the easiest of proceedings. Before a fire could be lit, a special grate had to be installed so that smokeless fuel could be burned.

Many chimneys had deteriorated so that not only the services of a sweep were required, but builders too, had to come and find ways of lining flues so they would safely conduct the smoke and fumes away.

Then of course there was the matter of lighting the fires once they were ready. Almost a whole generation had matured without having had any experience of lighting a fire. A simple enough matter? Well not really. Lighting the fire is a skill our grandparents took for granted, but it was something a new generation had to learn from the very basics.

Needless to say, not everyone welcomed the hard work of laying, fuelling, stoking and cleaning a grate on a daily basis. We live very different lives to those of our predecessors. Many of us don't have the time for such extras. Fortunately technology has come to the rescue. The result is there are hundreds of different possibilities available, that will give your home the comforts of an open grate, without the discomforts of the extra work.

To start with, the simplest open grates are so designed that they need the minimum of attention in order to work at full efficiency. Ashes fall into specially designed trays that merely lift out without scattering the residue all over the floor. Special underfloor draught channelling helps the fire to light swiftly, keeps it burning at the correct rate and pushes the maximum of heat out into the room. New flue liners cut down on the need for frequent sweeping. And there are a whole range of fire lighting devices that make getting the blaze going a simple task in the first place.

Then there are the frankly 'fake' fires. These include coal-effect gas and electric fires, that heat instantly

without any fuss, yet still give the warm appearance of the glowing coals. For a really living flame, there are the gas log fires that look so realistic you have to restrain yourself from throwing rubbish into them.

Another alternative is the solid fuel stove. There are many of these on the market today and they range in design from the frankly modern, to the reproduction antique. They mostly have see-through stove doors that allow the glow of the fire to brighten up the room yet, so efficient are they, they light and burn without any trouble, and take only minutes to clean.

Needless to say, all these types of fires will run alone, or in conjunction with a boiler. That in turn will fire the central heating, or just provide vast quantities of piping hot water whenever it is needed.

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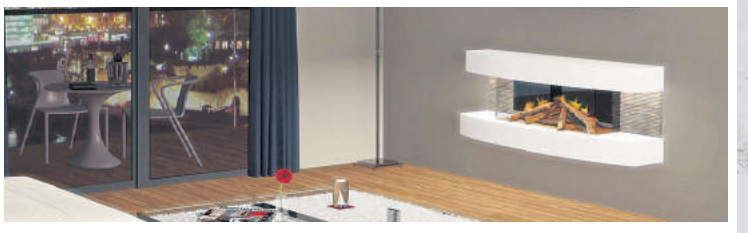

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Furniture & Fabrics

Until you really need to go out and buy new furnishings for your home, you probably won't fully appreciate the changes in style, the wealth of design ideas and the sheer range of materials available in the shops today.

There comes a time however, when some refurbishment has to be done, when we move perhaps, or when some radical renewal of décor or internal building work has been carried out? Then it is we decide, not just to renew the decor, but to replace those familiar 'household goods' with which we have lived for so long. We are faced with the whole cultural shock of design ideas and a range of materials and fabrics we had never thought to see.

However, this is what living in the second decade of the 21st century is all about. Never before has there been quite the freedom of choice, scope of inspiration or value for money in furniture and furnishing fabrics with user-friendliness, durability and eye-appeal.

Today's textiles come in man-made and natural fibres. The former have all the easy-care facilities you could possibly wish for, ready built-in. The latter will have been treated with the latest technology to make sure they too come up to scratch.

Then there are the variety of textures including smooth, chunky or deep piled. Today's fabrics don't just look good, they also have 'feel' appeal. Choose your fabrics for their impact. Have them made into curtains, blinds, cushions, lamp shades and loose covers.

When choosing furniture, yet more considerations come into play. It must look right of course. It must be of a quality that will withstand the wear and tear of everyday use. It must not cost more than one can afford and, whether it is seating or a bed, it must definitely be comfortable.

Good furniture in the shops today is a cunning integration of technology and craftsmanship. It is made from a variety of the finest woods and man-made materials where appropriate. It is built to last, to give years of hard service and, a lot of it is destined to be the collectors' antiques of tomorrow.

Built-in furniture is still a popular innovation, especially in bedrooms and kitchens. However, there is a concerted move back to free-standing pieces, and the most up-to-date homes are furnished with a subtle combination of the two.

Woods in use reflect a rising anxiety for the tropical forests that once gave us our furnishing timbers. Now the mode is for the home-grown, renewable stocks, such as walnut, beech, oak, apple, pear, pine and yew. Once again we are discovering the beauty of our home-grown timbers and displaying them at their best in our homes.

When it comes to beds however, technology has really taken over. Beds are designed to support the wide variety of body sizes, and personal tastes found in the population at large. Beds are designed to help with physical problems such as arthritis and general back problems. It is now possible for a couple to share a double bed in which one side provides a different degree of softness to the other.

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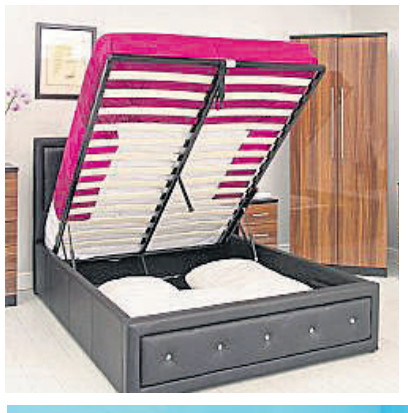

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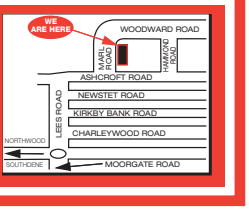

Carpets and Flooring

The floors of your home are the base of everything in it. They are in a very special way, a pallet on which you can mix and match the colours and textures of everything in each room. Change the flooring and you change the whole character of your room.

Floors however, serve a number of purposes other than something firm on which to stand. They can be insulation against cold or noise. They can add warmth. In some rooms such as the kitchen or bathroom they should provide a waterproof, easily washed and dried surface. If the floor is also warm to the touch, it will also prevent condensation.

The variety of flooring materials available are numerous enough to give you a different choice for every room in even a large house, so choosing which is best for your purposes can be no easy matter. It is wise therefore to look at each individual room rather than follow the 'one size fits all' route.

If you have wooden floor boards, have them sanded, stained and polished for a really, up-to-the-minute, different look. You could paint them in a bright colour. There are specially hard wearing paints available. In modern houses however, boards may have been replaced by block board or concrete which will nevertheless, provide a good flat surface for a laminated flooring - easily available from most DIY stores.

This attractive wooden flooring can be laid easily by one person following the instructions provided by the suppliers, as long as the surface is relatively flat and even.

Alternatives could be linoleum or vinyl, in sheets or tiles which are best laid when warm. Then there's cork, ceramic or quarry tiles, all of which give a good looking, hard wearing surface though it's worth bearing in mind the position of the floor in question. For instance, glazed ceramic tiles will lose their glaze quite quickly if they are placed near an exterior doorway that opens out onto a gritty garden. Ceramic and quarry tiles are generally cold to the touch and noisy to walk upon, so not totally suitable in bathroom or kitchen. They may not be a very secure and safe surface in a household where there is an elderly individual or a tottery child. Cork on the other hand is always warm, seldom slippery and effectively deadens sound quite efficiently though it must be sealed correctly before it is walked upon.

If a hard surface doesn't attract you then you will have to resort to carpeting of some sort and again the choice is truly huge with materials ranging from man-made to natural fibres including wool, cotton or sisal.

Carpets come in large squares, runners, tiles or broadloom rolls and can be laid wall to wall or strategically as required.

Depending on your taste you may wish to go for something contemporary and plain, traditional and colourful or oriental. The material your carpet is made from should depend on where it's laid and the amount of traffic it will carry. Your supplier will be able to advise. However, it is worth remembering that the better wearing carpets are the best laid ones so it's worth considering having any carpet professionally laid. And if you do want a single colour effect throughout the house, you can go for a broadloom made in a variety of qualities. The carpet supplier will usually visit to measure up and will advise on which quality should be laid where.

Lastly, when selecting a floor or its covering, do consider how often it may need to be cleaned. Obviously the hard surfaces are easier to clean than piled surfaces but the latest carpeting is usually treated to shrug off dirt and stains so it may be this need never be a consideration.

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Improving your home is always necessary as inevitably wear and tear take their toil, as we enter different stages in our lives and as trends change the way we live. However some home improvements can add considerable value to your home, which for many of us is the main asset that we own.

Convert your basement

Transform your basement into a living or storage space and you could increase the value of your property by as much as 30%, providing the build cost per sq foot is less than the price per sq foot of the area. Converting a cellar or basement into an additional room in your home is one of the most economical home improvements you can make as it generally doesn't require planning permission. If you're planning to make structural changes to a listed building however, ensure you speak to a local planning officer first.

Convert your garage into living space

If you find that your garage is being used to store everything and anything, but not your car, then why not better utilise this space and turn it into somewhere you can enjoy.

Building an extension.

An obvious benefit, adding more space to the home by either expanding a room or adding more. This can also be done across two floors enabling you to add extra bedrooms and bathrooms as families grow. Extensions however have had some poor press in the past because of the fact that they change the fabric of the building and great care must be taken at the design stage to ensure you have the correct planning permission and that the flow or the look of the building is not affected negatively.

Loft Conversion

Not only will a loft conversion create additional space in the home without the need to move, research has indicated that converting your loft to create an extra bedroom can add up to 15% to the value of your home, especially if you can include an ensuite bathroom as part of the conversion. Most lofts can be converted although it's a good idea to get an architect or builder to double check before you start planning.

Bathroom

The bathroom is another area where buyers may have their own ideas and styles but a clean, modern, well maintained room will be money well spent. Installing a brand new bathroom can be expensive though. If your current bathroom is just a little dated rather than in very poor condition then you may not make back a huge amount more than the cost of the upgrade.

Make the living area open plan

Open-plan spaces are very appealing, so it usually pays to knock down walls that are separating the kitchen and dining room. It also makes the space feel larger and lighter, which will help the saleability of the property.

Conservatory

As we have already touched on, increasing the amount of living space within the home is a sure fire way to increase the value of a property. If you are considering added a conservatory, make sure the style is in keeping with the rest of the property. Under a certain size, no planning permission is required.

Turn an under used room into a Home Office

Whether it's working from home, doing a few admin tasks or the kid's homework, more and more of us are looking to incorporate a study area in to our home. If you've only got a nook or small office zone to play with, make the best use of any vertical space available by building shelving units right up the ceiling and buy a pair of steps to access them if necessary. Also ensure that cable management and integrated task lighting is included if you're starting from scratch with a bespoke built-in solution.

Don't be afraid of introducing pattern into a small space behind a desk, as an interesting wallpaper or mural will cleverly distract from a messy desk and can play with the perception of space. If wallpaper isn't your thing, you could use a pinboard, wall-mounted clipboards or rows of curtain wire with small pegs to hang up inspirational tear sheets, photos and postcards to make an interesting backdrop to your study area.

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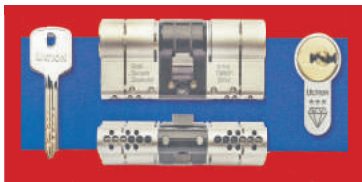

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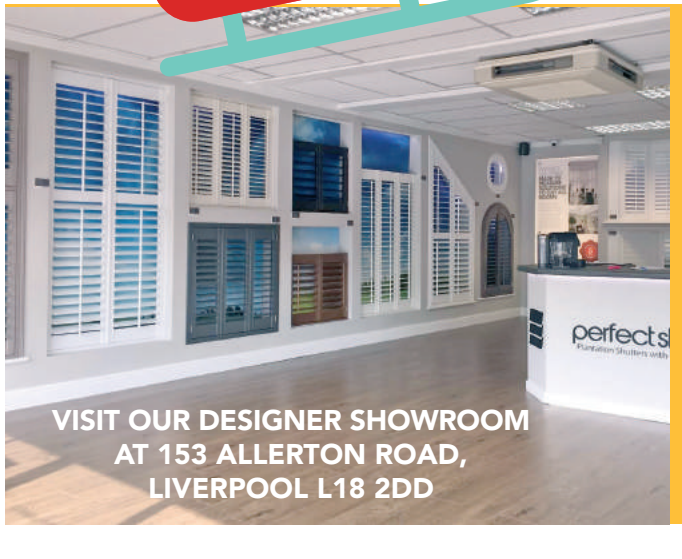

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